

## Radio Jordan voted highly credible

AMMAN (Petra) — An opinion poll conducted by the Arabic Studies Society in occupied Jerusalem on the most popular radio stations in the occupied Arab territories in terms of coverage of the Gulf crisis, has shown that Radio Jordan comes in the second place after Radio Monte Carlo. The poll, covering a sample of 246 persons representing all public and cultural sectors in the occupied territories, showed that the ratio of listeners who do not tune in to Radio Jordan is 1.2, equal to that of Radio Monte Carlo, while the ratio of those who do tune in to Radio Jordan reached 63.4 per cent, followed by the Voice of America with 50 per cent, Israel's Arabic service radio 18.3 per cent and London radio 17.1. The poll showed that Radio Jordan came first in terms of credibility followed in the second place by Radio Monte Carlo.

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## King meets conference team, among them Habash, Hawatmeh

### 3-day meeting ends with call for democracy and solidarity, respect for Arab human rights

By Mariam M. Shahin and Elia Nasrallah

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received a delegation representing the participants of a three-day pan-Arab conference on the Gulf crisis, among them Palestinian leaders George Habash and Nayef Hawatmeh.

The King briefed the delegation on the developments in the Gulf crisis and emphasised the need to contain the problem and find a political solution to it within an Arab framework, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Separate statements issued after the meeting by Habash and Hawatmeh, heads of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic

Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) respectively, said they agreed on the necessity to check any escalation of the crisis and to find an Arab political solution to the problem without foreign intervention.

The statements of PFLP and DFLP — both component groups of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) — underlined the need for Arab efforts to resolve the crisis.

The PFLP statement described the meeting with the King as "warm and cordial."

"Discussion related to the Gulf crisis covered foreign intervention and the danger posed by this intervention to the region's security and Arab national interests," the statement said.

The statement stressed the importance of opening the door for an Arab solution, "which is the only solution that can safeguard the region's peace

and security."

The meeting also dwelt on "divisions among Arab countries and the Arab League and explored means of dealing with them in a manner that would ensure restructuring pan-Arab solidarity on a basis that would preserve Arab rights and interests," it said.

The meeting also covered "the democratic process in Jordan and its positive effect in enhancing Jordan's steadfastness in the face of dangers and challenges posed to the Arab Nation by Israel."

The PFLP delegation to the meeting included Azmi Khawaja and Tayseer Qubsa as well as Parliament Deputy Deeb Marji. "Issues related to Jordanian-Palestinian relations on the one hand and Jordanian-PFLP on the other were discussed and it was agreed that these relations be developed in harmony with the special relationship binding the Jordanian and Palestinian people and in a manner that would contribute to supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people and their uprising to help it achieve freedom and independence for the Palestinian people," it said.

The DFLP statement described the meeting as a "deep and comprehensive discussion in light of the current developments in the Gulf region and the massing of foreign forces in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf."

"The meeting agreed that a solution to the Gulf crisis can only be found within the Arab framework based on the concept of legitimate interests of Iraq and the Gulf countries, and without any foreign intervention," the statement said.

"They pointed to the need for holding an international conference to be held under United Nations auspices to discuss both the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question since international legitimacy should be indivisible," it said.

"The meeting underlined the links between the uprising in the occupied territories and the steadfastness of Jordan and Iraq for the achievement of the Arab Nation's objectives, which include the termination of Israel's occupation and the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland, the Palestinian people's self-determination and an independent Palestinian state," it said.

The meeting discussed Jordanian-Palestinian relations and means for developing them, it added.

The DFLP delegation to the meeting included Saji Salameh, member of the DFLP's political bureau, and Ahmad Al Jamal, member of the DFLP's Central Committee.

Hawatmeh's visit to Jordan came at the invitation of the Jordanian Arab National Democratic Alliance to take part in the conference of Arab popu-

lar that would contribute to supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people and their uprising to help it achieve freedom and independence for the Palestinian people," it said.

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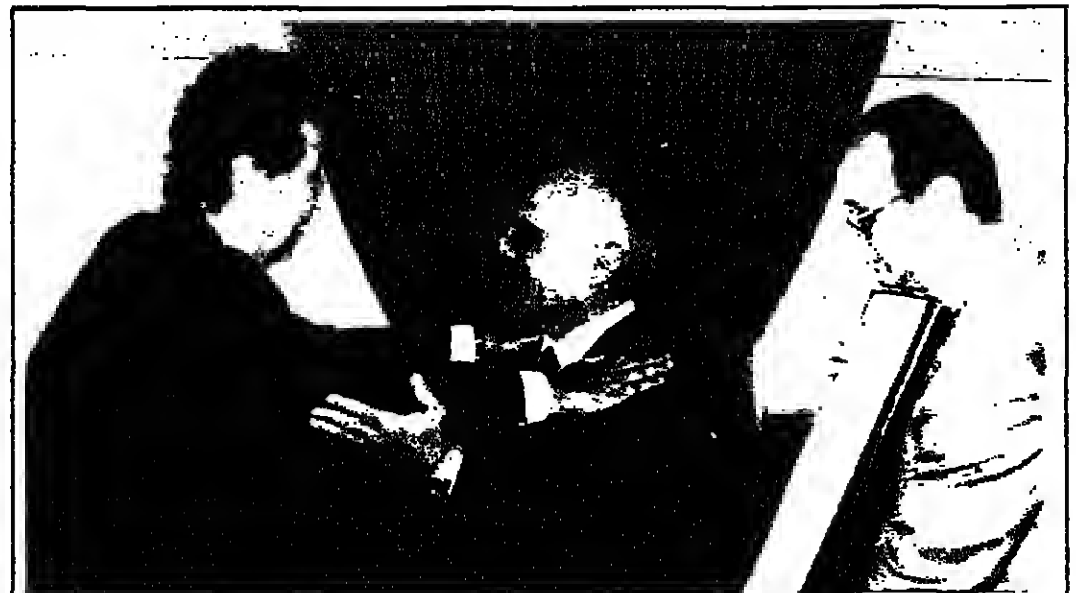
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(Continued on page 5)

## Norwegian minister arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister Kant Vollebaek arrived in Amman Monday on a three-day official visit to Jordan for talks with Jordanian officials on the Gulf crisis and the influx of thousands of evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait into Jordan. In a statement to Petra, Vollebaek said he would examine the situation in Jordan and discuss with officials the prospect of providing assistance to the evacuees and help them leave to their countries. He said the Norwegian government had contacted the International Committee of the Red Cross and other organisations in order to provide assistance to the evacuees. He added Norway already provided assistance to the evacuees and that his government was studying an assistance demand worth \$1 million presented to the Norwegian parliament. Vollebaek was received at the airport by Foreign Ministry Secretary General Mut'assim Bilal, the Norwegian honorary consul and the Norwegian charge d'affaires in Damascus.



His Majesty King Hussein with former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella whom he decorated with Jordan's highest honour Monday (Petra photo)

## King decorates Ben Bella

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday presented former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella with Al Hussein Beo Ali Medal, the highest Jordanian decoration, and saw him off from Amman.

During his visit, Ben Bella discussed with the

King the latest developments in the Gulf crisis and Jordan's efforts to end the problem through diplomatic means within an Arab framework. Ben Bella also visited Baghdad for talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, which ended in the release of sick French nationals from Iraq.

## Aga Khan stresses non-political nature of relief mission

AMMAN (Petra) — Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the personal representative of the United Nations secretary general for humanitarian assistance related to the Gulf crisis, Monday toured the Andalus evacuee camp accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

In a statement to Petra, Aga Khan, who arrived here Sunday, said his visit to Jordan was purely of humanitarian nature and has nothing to do with the political aspect of the Gulf crisis.

He said he was entrusted with the mission by the U.N. secretary general to assess the needs of the evacuees and not as a result of a Security Council resolution.

Aga Khan said he highly appreciates the strenuous efforts exerted by the Jordanian authorities to provide assistance to the refugees and noted that the U.N. had responded to calls for help and was providing assistance to ensure the repatriation and transportation of the evacuees.

The United Nations is doing all it can to ensure the repatriation of evacuees from Third World countries and will do its best to alleviate their sufferings, Aga Khan said.

Prince Hassan also stressed in a statement that Prince Aga Khan's mission was humanitarian and related to the coordination of relief operations for the evacuees and was not related to U.N.

Security Council Resolution 666. The basic task of Prince Aga Khan is to coordinate the work of relief organisations and voluntary agencies designed to help the thousands of evacuees stranded in Jordan, Prince Hassan said.

Since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, the evacuees fleeing the Gulf region to Jordan have been put up in churches, mosques and school throughout the country and the Kingdom has provided relief supplies and accommodation for the evacuees without any external assistance from Aug. 2 and until Aug. 22, Prince Hassan pointed out.

He said Jordan spent JD 37 million of relief supplies for the evacuees so far and was prepared to coordinate work with the various organisations to ensure sufficient supplies.

Prince Hassan and the U.N. representative inspected the Andalus camp and familiarised themselves with the nature of services being provided to the evacuees and arrangements for their accommodation and repatriation.

They first called at the Ministry of Interior and listened to a briefing by its secretary general, Salameh Hammad, about the situation in the Andalus camp.

The camp, they were told, now houses 4,720 evacuees, mostly from Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.



Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Monday visits a camp for Asian evacuees in Amman. Prince Aga Khan is a special envoy of the U.N. secretary-general mandated with coordinating humanitarian assistance related to the Gulf crisis, particularly the problems of evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq (AP photo)

## 8 Indian evacuees, 2 drivers killed in head-on collision

By Joumana Halasa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Eight Indians and two Jordanians were killed and 27 Indians were seriously injured Monday in a head-on collision between a bus and a truck on the main Jordan-Iraq highway in the second fatal road accident involving Asian evacuees in four days, officials said.

The bus was part of a 20-vehicle convoy carrying Indian evacuees to the airport from the Azraq camp for onward flights arranged by the Embassy of India Monday evening, the officials said.

According to some of the passengers who escaped with minor injuries the accident occurred at around 1.30 p.m. near Al Kharrana, about 50 kilometres on the highway from Azraq to Amman.

The bus driver, a Jordanian, apparently trying to overtake another vehicle, lost control and smashed into an oncoming

tanker truck, crushing the front half of the bus, instantly killing himself and six Indian passengers and the driver of the tanker, police said. The bus, belonging to a private company in Wihdat outside Amman, was carrying 47 passengers, according to the Indian embassy here.

Another Indian died on his way to hospital and another died in the intensive care unit of the Al Bashir hospital, embassy officials said. Twenty-three were admitted to Al Bashir Hospital and four others were taken to the University of Jordan Hospital. Eleven of the injured were scheduled to undergo surgery Monday evening. Twelve of the passengers were treated for moderate injuries and discharged, hospital officials told the Jordan Times.

The precise identities of the dead were not immediately available, an embassy official said. "Most of the belongings of the passengers were in the

front part of the bus, containing the passports and other identity documents, and this part is totally damaged," an Indian embassy official said. However, he said, most of the dead appeared to be from the central and western states of India. "We will be able to establish the identities by tomorrow (Tuesday)," he said.

It was the second fatal accident involving Asian evacuees from Kuwait passing through Jordan on their way home.

On Friday nine Sri Lankans and one Thai was killed in a similar accident on the same highway.

The Indians involved in Monday's accident had stayed at the Shaalan I camp under what relief officials describe as "sub-human conditions" for 10 days before being transferred to the new transit camp at Azraq.

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(Continued on page 2)

## Oil rises above \$33 per barrel

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil futures soared above \$33 a barrel Monday morning to record levels on the New York Mercantile Exchange, as traders responded to bullish prices in Europe and continued Mideast tensions.

Light sweet crude opened at a record \$32.80 per barrel for October delivery, surpassing the old opening high of \$32.35 that was set Aug. 2, 1983, and matched once during the latest Gulf crisis, on Aug. 23. The exchange's records for crude date to March 30, 1983, when it began trading the oil futures.

In late morning trading, crude rose as high as \$33.10 before dipping back under \$33 and staying well above the old record. The October crude contract closed at \$31.76 a barrel on Fri-

day. Other contract months for crude were all higher as traders responded to bullish prices of Brent blend, a European oil that moved up in the wake of a pipeline cutback in the North Sea and rumours of an unscheduled pipeline repair in the Soviet Union.

Oil markets have been swinging so wildly since Iraq took over Kuwait on Aug. 2 that traders took it in stride as oil leaped to a new record price.

"I think the move was 'there goes that, so let's shoot for the next target'," said trader Ed Kevelson, with Dean Witter Reynolds Inc. Brokerage firm, "32.35, which seemed like a pretty tough level to get to, just evaporates this morning."

Kevelson said traders were also reacting to news that Iran and Iraq had stopped exchanging prisoners, despite their recent conciliatory moves that have included the re-establishment of diplomatic ties. Traders were also following reports that pro-Iraqi groups might try to move food and medicine into Iraq, despite the blockade of Iraq that was imposed after its troops entered Kuwait.

The price of crude opened so high in response to prices of Brent, which was trading up about \$1.30 per barrel Monday.

Brent prices were higher in part because of a North Sea pipeline problem that was keeping about 70,000 barrels per day off the market.

## Last evacuee camp closed at Ruweished

AZRAQ (J.T.) — The authorities Monday closed down the last of three desert camps for evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq and moved the remaining refugees into two new camps.

Flaps on the empty tents at Shaalan II snapped in the hot desert wind, and garbage blew across the scorpion-infested sand near Ruweished along the Iraqi border, the Associated Press reported.

Hans Everts, a coordinator with the French humanitarian group Medecins sans Frontieres, was quoted as saying by the AP that "we don't expect another big influx."

"There will continue to be another 2,000 or so people crossing each day for the foreseeable future. But Jordan has it all magnificently organised. It's time for us to go home," he was quoted as saying.

Shaalan I, which once contained about 45,000 people fleeing Kuwait and Iraq, closed Thursday. Mercy Camp tents emptied on Sunday afternoon.

The refugees headed directly for planes or ferries home. About 18,000 mostly Asian refugees were transferred to Azraq I and II.

The tents stand in precise rows, divided into sectors by national groups, each served by a water line.

The desperation in the makeshift border camps, which only two weeks ago led to fights over water and food, has given

way to an amiable camaraderie. Sri Lankans exchange morning greetings with Filipinos. A Bangladeshi man helps an Indian woman carry a plastic bucket of water, an AP writer reported from the scene.

Cooler weather has calmed heated tempers as well, and many people strolled in the sandy hills near the camp wrapped in blankets against the cold morning wind, the report said.

The AP dispatch said: Styrofoam cartons filled with apples, cucumbers, grapes and tomatoes sit stacked in the cool shade of a storage tent next to a camp clinic. A half dozen doctors with the Jordanian Red Crescent supervise nurses from the Order of the Sacred Heart, bustling about in snow-white habits and nurse's caps with red racing stripes down the side.

Dr. Khaled Abu Halimeh, medical director at the camp, gave a Sri Lankan mother some aspirin and sat down to chat. He said 500 Sri Lankans would be leaving the camp Monday along with Bangladeshis and Indians.

But 3,000 more refugees arrived Monday from Iraq and Kuwait.

"It's not over yet, not nearly. We still need lots of help to get through this," the doctor said.

Dozens of evacuation flights leave daily from Amman. By official count released Sunday, a total of 14,850 people arrived in Jordan Saturday while 19,768 people departed.

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## U.S. air force chief of staff dismissed

WASHINGTON (AP) — The air force chief of staff, General Mike Dugan, was relieved of his duties Monday, the Defence Department said. The unusual move followed Dugan's blunt comments about U.S. contingency plans for massive air strikes against Baghdad.

"Secretary Cheney took the action this morning after consulting with the president," the Pentagon said in a terse three-line statement. The White House said President George Bush concurred with Defence Secretary Dick Cheney's decision.

Cheney "did consult with the president by telephone and the president concurred in his removal," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said.

Fitzwater deferred questions to the Defence Department. Cheney was expected to make a statement late Monday.

The dismissal came one day after Dugan was quoted in published reports as saying U.S. military authorities had concluded that massive air strikes are the only effective way of forcing Iraq out of Kuwait in the event of war.

He was also quoted as saying military planners had drawn up a list of high-value Iraqi targets, which included Saddam Hussein and his inner circle.



## Halt in Iran-Iraq PoW swap raises speculation

NICOSIA (AP) — A month-old exchange of prisoners-of-war (PoW) between Iran and Iraq was at a standstill Monday after Baghdad abruptly halted it without explanation, stranding as many as 25,000 men who had thought they were going home after years of captivity.

Iraq's action late Sunday came as the first Iranian delegation to visit Baghdad in more than a decade discussed a formal end to the 1980-88 conflict.

Iran's deputy foreign minister, Manouchehr Mottaki, arrived in Baghdad earlier Sunday and met with Iraqi officials led by his counterpart, Wisam Al Zahawi.

It was not clear what was behind the Iraqi action. But in the first real criticism of Iran since Iraq made peace with its eastern neighbour last month, Baghdad Saturday denounced comments by the former head of Iran's

supreme court, that Iraq had warned Washington in advance of its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. Ayatollah Hussein Ardebili made the remark Friday, suggesting collusion between Iraq and the United States over the invasion.

Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, reported Sunday night that no Iranian prisoners had been repatriated Sunday, the first day no prisoners had been exchanged since the long-delayed swap began Aug. 17.

Reports from Baghdad confirmed no Iraqi prisoners had been repatriated either.

There was no immediate comment from the International Committee of the Red Cross, which is coordinating the exchange.

But a spokeswoman at Red Cross headquarters in Geneva told the Associated Press by tele-

phone: "The exchange is definitely not finished yet, and there are many, many prisoners who still have to be repatriated."

She said that some 75,000 PoWs had been exchanged since the swap began. The Red Cross had estimated some 100,000 prisoners were held by both sides before the exchange began.

Iraq initiated the swap when it held out on olive branch to Tehran Aug. 15. It agreed to exchange all prisoners, withdraw from Iranian territory occupied in the closing stages of the war and share sovereignty of the Shant Al Arab waterway that forms the southern boundary between the two countries.

That ended two years of deadlock in peace talks started five days after a United Nations-sponsored ceasefire halted hostilities.

## Iraqis prevent young Kuwaitis from fleeing

KHAFJI, Saudi Arabia (Agencies) — Iraqi troops Monday randomly prevented young men from leaving Kuwait but let their womenfolk go, refugees said.

Refugees said busloads of men between the ages of 17 and 40 were seen being shipped back. No explanation was given.

Other young men were allowed to pass through. "The rules change every five minutes," said an official of a committee to aid the refugees.

The soldiers manning Iraqi border posts were confiscating passports and other official documents, forcing some people to wait outside the border crossing for more than 24 hours as their identification was checked for entry into Saudi Arabia.

Refugees were also barred from leaving the city of Khafji. Parking lots, beaches and all public buildings spilled over with the

Kuwaitis.

Since Iraq unexpectedly opened the border for the first time in over a month on Saturday, about 6,000 refugees have entered Saudi Arabia, said the vice-governor of the Eastern Province, Prince Fahd Ben Salman.

"It's just a slow process for security reasons," Prince Fahd said during an inspection tour of the border post. Many arrived only with IDs issued by Iraq, he said.

"We are trying to make sure that nothing is smuggled into the country. They could use this opportunity for anything," he said.

To get the refugees out of the 114-degree Fahrenheit (46-degree Celsius) heat and swirling dust of a major sandstorm, they were transported to air-conditioned schools where they would be fed and housed until they had all

been processed, the prince said.

Many refugees came up the prince to kiss his nose or cloak as a mark of respect and beg him to intercede to get into the country more rapidly.

"Don't be afraid, don't be afraid," he assured them.

Refugees said the Iraqis turned back all non-Kuwaitis except for a few Western women married to Kuwaiti citizens and told them to leave the country via Baghdad.

Six checkpoints on the 200 kilometre route from Kuwait City to the border eliminated the possibility of random escapes, they said.

The Kuwaitis flooded into Saudi Arabia over the weekend with and Kuwait's toppled government accused Iraq of depopulating the country to resettle Iraqis there.

## Israel wants more money from U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israel wants more money and weapons from the United States so it can keep up with the massive arms sales to Saudi Arabia planned by the Bush administration.

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens planned to deliver that message to Defence Secretary Dick Cheney and congressional leaders Monday.

The Bush administration is preparing to ask Congress to approve the sale of \$18 billion worth of planes, tanks and other weapons to Saudi Arabia over the next few years, sources say.

Israel has not been consulted about the deal, Arens said in a speech Sunday to a conference of the Washington Institute for Near East Studies.

"I hope there will be discussions with us because I'm sure that there cannot be anybody in Washington that does not feel that that kind of an arms deal would have an effect on Israel that couldn't be positive," Arens told the gathering in nearby Maryland.

"And we would have to have discussions to see what could be done... that will provide the necessary equilibrium," he added.

Technically, Israel and Saudi Arabia are in a state of war although the two sides have not fought directly since 1948.

The United States has for years supplied Israel with sufficient weapons to maintain a qualitative edge over the far larger armies of its hostile Arab neighbours.

But in recent years the United States has eroded Israel's advantage by selling the Arabs everything it sells Israel, Arens said. As a result, Israel relies increasingly on its own defence industry.

Israeli sources said Israel will ask for an increase in the \$1.8 billion the United States gives Israel annually in defence aid.

The increase would be used to help Israel develop and produce new weapons.

Arens also wants answers on a shopping list Israel gave the administration several weeks ago, including F-15 and F-16 fighter jets and a leasing arrangement for U.S.-made Patriot anti-missile missiles, said the sources.

One of the thorniest issues on Arens' agenda is Israel's desire for direct access to U.S. spy satellites orbiting over the Arab World, the sources say.

Arens asserted that the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the resulting arms sales to the Saudis and other U.S. allies were escalating the arms race in the Mideast and "destabilising" the region.

Chief of Staff Dan Shomron said that the planned U.S. weapons sales to Saudi Arabia are "certainly not a recipe for stability" in the Middle East.

Speaking on Israel Radio, he said the Saudi package means "a large quantity of weapons which are also of the highest quality."

"From our point of view, giving such weapons... to countries that are still formally at war with us, is certainly not a recipe for stability," Shomron said.

"I hope this situation will be balanced in order to guarantee in the future our technological superiority and deterrent capability," he said.

Turning to the Gulf, Shomron predicted that the Iraqi army will soon run short of spare parts, while other effects of international sanctions may be less acute.

"It is easier to convince people that for the cause of a just, important war they should be content with less food or services," but not so with weapons, Shomron said. "If this problem of spare parts for weapons systems, mostly advanced systems, does not exist today, it will soon become a serious issue."

## Iraqi newspapers deride Bush

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi newspapers Monday derided U.S. President George Bush a day after state-run television broadcast a videotaped message from the U.S. leader in which he called the Gulf conflict "Iraq against the world."

Iraq also ordered the dissolution of Kuwait Airways, the flagship air carrier of the country now annexed by Iraq.

"Once again the president of the United States fails to understand the mentality and psychology of the Iraqi people," the Al Jomhouria said in a front-page commentary headlined, "The illusions of Mr. Bush."

"Instead of correcting his previous mistakes Bush wants to push the area to the abyss of untold catastrophes," Al Jomhouria said.

It said Bush was the victim of his own hatred for Iraq and its leaders, and questioned Bush's stand that the present confrontation is not with the Iraqi people, but with President Saddam Hussein for overrunning Kuwait.

"If other people see the sun shining from the eastern horizon, Iraqis see it shining in the face of Saddam Hussein," the newspaper said.

Bush's eight-minute video message aired Sunday evening on nationwide state-run television, with Arabic subtitles and an Arabic voiceover provided by the U.S. government. Baghdad responded with a 25-minute rebuttal, labelling the message "full of

lies and contradictions."

"Saddam Hussein tells you this crisis is a struggle between Iraq and America. In fact, it is Iraq against the world," Bush told his Iraqi audience as he stood in front of his Oval Office desk with an American flag behind him.

"Now, once again, Iraq finds itself on the brink of war," Bush said. "Once again, the same Iraqi leadership has miscalculated. Once again, the Iraqi people face tragedy."

The message sparked street protests in Baghdad of thousands of Iraqis who marched and shouted, "Death to Bush, death to America."

Another commentary in Al Jomhouria headlined "Shut up, Mr. Bush" said, "America today is a bastion of oppression and we have this to say: 'Mr. Bush, we listened to your message, but please shut up.'"

The Iraqi army newspaper Al Qadisiyah also taunted Bush, saying his message was "empty" and avoided the issues.

"It is evident, that Bush who is the president of a state which slashes the leadership of the world has failed in his first test with the Iraqi people," Al Qadisiyah said.

"His message was empty and he was beating around the bush without daring to touch upon the real issue," the paper said. "It seems that President Bush was playing a new game, according to the advice he received from the

Central Intelligence Agency and his experts in psychological warfare."

Al Qadisiyah also questioned Bush's claim to represent world opinion. "We ask Bush who has authorised him to talk on behalf of the international community," the army paper said. "By that we understand that Bush wants to say that he has a mandate to carry out his aggression against Iraq, but we know that the decision to go to war with Iraq is purely American."

The semi-independent newspaper Al Iraq ran a page-one headline, "Bush tricks" which said Bush's message was evidence of how the United States is moving towards confrontation with Iraq and the Arab and Islamic nations.

"It reveals the arrogance of the United States which wants to impose itself as regent on the international community," Al Iraq said. "President Bush's message was full of lies, forgery and contradictions."

A presidential decree published Monday to Al Qadisiyah dissolved Kuwait Airways and transferred all its assets to the Iraqi Airways. The decree also dissolved all Kuwait Airways offices abroad and dismissed its personnel.

Several Kuwait Airways planes including Airbus and Boeings have already been moved to Baghdad and repainted in the green and white colours of Iraqi Airways along with the Iraqi flag.

## Eritreans claim killing 1,000 troops

NAIROBI (AP) — Secessionist Eritrean rebels, said by Ethiopia's government to be intensifying their war, have reported they killed over 1,000 soldiers in four days of fighting.

The Eritrean People's Liberation Front said in a clandestine radio broadcast Sunday that its guerrillas killed 1,050 soldiers and injured 1,900 in the battle near Asmara, capital of Ethiopia's northernmost province.

The broadcast said the rebels also captured three tanks and a large quantity of weapons.

The broadcast, monitored in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, said the fighting, which ended Thursday, began with a government offensive Sept. 9.

It was impossible to independently verify the rebel claims.

However, President Mengistu Haile Mariam hinted at the fighting Wednesday in a speech marking the 1974 ouster by the military of the late Emperor Haile Selassie.

Mengistu said the Eritreans were intensifying their war and government troops were "paying enormous sacrifices to uphold the entity of the motherland."

The Eritreans, who control most of the countryside in the province, are fighting a 29-year-old war for Eritrea's independence.

In February, the rebels launched their largest offensive in Africa's longest continuous war and captured Massawa, Ethiopia's main port on the Red Sea.

The rebel victory cut all ground routes to Asmara from the capital, Addis Ababa.

The government is also fighting a smaller insurgency, the Tigre People's Liberation Front, which control Tigre province, Eritrea's southern neighbour.

The Tigreans seek Mengistu's ouster and the establishment of a government patterned after that of Albania, the last of the hardline Marxist states in Eastern Europe.

Although their aims differ, the Tigreans and the Eritreans usually conduct joint offensives.

In his Wednesday speech, Mengistu appealed to both rebel groups to resume peace talks attended by international independent observers.

## Soviet Union, S. Arabia agree to restore relations

MOSCOW (AP) — Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union reached a preliminary agreement Monday to restore diplomatic relations after a break of more than 30 years, the official TASS news agency reported.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and his Saudi counterpart, Prince Saud Al Faisal also called for the immediate withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait, TASS said.

Shevardnadze said he hoped the reestablishment of diplomatic relations would be finalised when the prince met with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, the news agency said.

"The issue of establishing official contacts between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Saudi Arabia has long been ripe," a Foreign Ministry official, Sergei Kirpichenko, was quoted by TASS as saying.

Saudi Arabia's new rapport with Moscow comes after the Soviet Union — despite its long alliance with Iraq — broke with Baghdad and condemned the invasion of Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia and Moscow had full diplomatic relations until 1938, when dictator Josef Stalin closed his embassy in Jeddah in a cost-cutting move.

Several attempts to reestablish ties during the 1980s faltered over what Saudi Arabia called the Soviet Union's "belligerent attitude" towards its 50 million Muslims.

In their discussions of the Gulf crisis, the Saudi and Soviet foreign ministers were quoted as saying both wanted a peaceful settlement.

"We hope that, faced with the world community's unanimity, Iraq will agree to the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of its troops from Kuwait and will restore legality," TASS quoted Saud as saying.

On Sunday, Abdul Wahab Abdul Wasie, the Saudi Arabian minister of pilgrimage and endowments, arrived in Moscow to attend a three-day Islamic conference and meet with Soviet Muslims, the news agency said.

The visit is the first ever by a Saudi religious affairs minister to the Soviet Union.

As part of the improving atmosphere between the two countries, King Fahd, the Saudi monarch, recently donated about 1.6 million copies of the holy Koran to Soviet Muslims. The Soviet Union allowed more than 1,000 Muslims to make the annual pilgrimage to Mecca this summer.

## Hizbollah optimistic British hostages in Lebanon free soon

NICOSIA (R) — British hostages in Lebanon could soon be freed, but Americans will remain captive, a leader of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) said in remarks reported by Iranian radio.

Hussein Musawi, a senior Hizbollah official, said in a statement reported late Sunday night that he was optimistic about the release of Britons. But he did not expect any American hostages to be released in the near future.

Hizbollah denies links with kidnapping, but is believed by the West to be an umbrella body for groups holding 12 Westerners in Lebanon.

Three Britons and six Americans are among the 12 hostages thought to be held in slum district of Beirut.

Musawi said earlier this month he thought prospects for the release of the British hostages were promising.

The three Britons are: John McCarthy, 33, a journalist for Worldwide Television News who was seized April 17, 1986. His kidnapping was claimed by the revolutionary commando cells.

Terry Waite, 51, the envoy of the archbishop of Canterbury who disappeared on Jan. 20, 1987 during a mission to try to free Western hostages.

Jack Mann, 76, a retired airline pilot and nightclub manager who

disappeared May 12, 1989 in west Beirut. He was seized by the armed struggle cells. There have been unconfirmed reports he is dead.

The Iranian radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, quoted Musawi as saying the American presence in the Gulf had created a crisis in the area.

"He warned of the consequences of a delaying the departure of the American forces from the sacred Islamic lands," the radio said.

Washington has sent over 140,000 troops to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf in response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait Aug. 2. Britain has also sent troops, warships and planes to the region.

But Britain and Iran have recently moved closer to resolving their differences over author Salman Rushdie's alleged blasphemy in his novel "The Satanic Verses."

Earlier this month, Irish hostage Brian Keenan, 39, who also holds a British passport, was released shortly after Iran's national news agency IRNA reported that a European hostage would be freed within hours.

Two Swiss Red Cross workers were released in August and Americans Robert Polhill and Frank Reed were freed in April in what their captors said was a goodwill gesture.

## Gorbachev meeting with Israelis signals better ties

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Two Israeli ministers who met Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev last week called their talks a "breakthrough" and analysts said Moscow wanted friendlier relations with the Jewish state.

Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai and Science Minister Yuval Neeman met Gorbachev in Moscow Friday. They were the first Israeli ministers to meet a Soviet leader since Moscow severed ties with Israel over the 1967 war.

"You can consider it a breakthrough that such a meeting took place," Modai told reporters when he returned Sunday.

Neeman, representative of a small far-right party in government, said the meeting had "definite political significance."

They refused to say if they had discussed renewing full diplomatic relations, which are currently

at consular level.

Galia Golan, a leading Israeli scholar on the Soviet Union, said the meeting was a signal that Gorbachev is interested in bettering relations with Israel and playing a bigger mediation role in any future Middle East peace negotiations.

"Gorbachev saw this as a gesture for normalising relations, to indicate that the Soviets made that decision a long time ago and they are pursuing everything short of diplomatic relations which they will give only in exchange for negotiations," she said.

The Soviet Union has said it would restore relations with Israel if Israel agreed to negotiate peace in the framework of an international conference on the Middle East.

Golan said Moscow had been

prepared to restore relations if Israel agreed to U.S.-proposed peace talks with Palestinians in Cairo which Israel has shunned.

"When the Gulf conflict is resolved they are going to push to get the Arab-Israeli conflict solved because it is a source of instability," she said.

Modai and Neeman said they thanked Gorbachev for allowing Soviet Jews to emigrate freely, a move that has brought nearly 100,000 Soviet immigrants to Israel this year.

The liberalisation of emigration was motivated partly by the Soviets' desire to improve trade relations with the United States which has linked "human rights violations" to trade benefits.

Gideon Raphael, a veteran Israeli diplomat, said the Soviets had plunged Israel into a diplomatic no-man's-land.

## Eight Indians killed

(Continued from page 1)

said one of the Indians who escaped Monday's accident with minor injuries. "It was a relief to have been transferred to Azraq," he told the Jordan Times, sitting in front of the Indian embassy with glassy eyes and a bloody nose.

"When we got on the bus this morning were glad that the nightmare was over and now this," he said pointing to a bloody leg. He refused to return to hospital for further treatment saying all he wanted was to "go home."

Inside the Al Bashir Hospital's surgical ward, a doctor attending to the mangled limbs and shattered faces said at least 11 of the injured needed surgery.

Most of the injured appeared to be blue-collar workers, and some of them were unable to reply doctors' and policemen's questions and

an interpreter from the embassy had to step in to reconstruct the accident.

An official statement issued late Monday said eight Indians and one Jordanian was killed in the accident, raising the possibility that the driver of the tanker was not one of the fatalities. However, police said their information indicated that both the drivers were killed. There was no immediate explanation to the disparity.

### EC

(Continued from page 1)

Meanwhile, four French nationals, a married couple and two men, believed to be the first to be released from strategic locations in Iraq, arrived in Amman Monday on their way home.

"We were well treated," said one of the men on arrival at Amman's international airport on a scheduled Iraqi Airways flight from Baghdad.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 77311-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programmes
15:50	News Summary
16:10	Local programme
16:45	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Local programme
22:00	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:15	Documentary
18:35	Des chiffres et de lettres
19:00	News in French
19:30	Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:35	News in Arabic
20:00	News in Hebrew
21:10	End of an E. programme
22:00	News in English
22:30	Martin Luther King
PRAYER TIMES	
04:58	Fajr
06:16	(Sunrise) Dhuha
12:35	Dhuhr
16:00	Asr
16:43	Maghreb
20:01	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Namur Church, Sweitha Tel. 810740	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785, 685326	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terzian Church Tel. 623266	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 638543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be fair and winds will be northwesterly moderate to fresh. In	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Issam Al Kayed	890402
Dr. Munir Qasbi	898101
Dr. Jamal Abu Baker	744236
Dr. Tayser Khader	606857
First pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Naturock pharmacy	623672
Al Salate pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shumaisi pharmacy	637660
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630941
Rescue	199
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	603800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Accident Municipality	787111
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	644945
Repairs	623101

HOSPITALS	
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	661104
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	06-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport	06-53200
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
05:45	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:15	Muscat (RJ)
06:30	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
06:45	Cairo (RJ)
07:00	Dubai (RJ)
07:15	Jeddah, Aden (RJ)
07:30	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
07:45	Beirut (RJ)
08:00	Cairo (RJ)
08:15	Dubai (RJ)
08:30	Jeddah, Aden (RJ)
08:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
09:00	Beirut (RJ)

MARKET PRICES	
17:00	Montreal, New York (RJ)
17:30	Belgrade (RJ)
18:00	Beirut (RJ)
18:30	Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
19:00	Rome (RJ)
19:30	Rome (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
06:30	Beirut (ME)
06:45	Muscat (RJ)
07:00	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
07:15	Cairo (RJ)
07:30	Dubai (RJ)
07:45	Jeddah, Aden (RJ)
08:00	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
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08:30	Cairo (RJ)
08:45	Dubai (RJ)
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16:15	Dubai (RJ)
16:30	Jeddah, Aden (RJ)
16:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
17:00	Beirut (RJ)



## Japanese ambassador visits evacuee camp

By Serene Halasa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Japan's Ambassador to Jordan Tadayuki Nonoyama is touring the Marj Al Hamman evacuee camp Monday. "On Wednesday two Japanese planes will come to Jordan, under instruction from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to transport Filipinos back to Manila." He also added that the problem of the evacuees in Jordan was not solely a Jordanian problem but an international problem that should be given international attention.

The ambassador was met by Abdul Salam Abbadi, the chairman of the Jordanian Hashemite Charitable Committee, and the moderator of the centre, Seif Dawagrah, who briefed the ambassador on the functions and the help the centre has been extending to the evacuees.

"Japan's contribution reached \$22 million in emergency and financial aid to Jordan since the beginning of the Gulf crisis. This included \$12 million donated to the IOM to help in the transportation of evacuees from Jordan to their respective countries, \$8 million to the United Nations Disaster Relief Office (UNDRO), and \$2 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)."

As for the emergency assistance, Japan has donated tents, water tanks, blankets, rolls of

plastic sheets, soap, tableware, pharmaceuticals, and powder milk.

Marj Al Hamman camp was set up in Aug. 21, and received close to 22,000 evacuees of different nationalities. "We had people from India, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Somalia, Liberia. You could say we had a small United Nations," Dawagrah said.

The camp has three clinics, one set up by the Ministry of Health, second by the French organisation Medecins du Monde, and the third by volunteers in the camp. "We have around 21 organisations working with us, along with about 200 volunteers, including the Jordanian Boy Scouts," Abbadi said. He added that the organisation of the camp had gone on smoothly. "We have set up committees for everything: for water, medical and food services, camping, departure..." Abbadi said.

"I am very impressed with what I saw today, especially with the Jordanian volunteers who have come to help with this humanitarian issue," Ambassador Nonoyama said.

"The camp has served as a stand by for evacuees leaving Iraq. They leave the camps for the Andalus camp and then for the airport to be transported to their respective countries," Abbadi said.

Since Sept. 11, close to 20,000 evacuees had left Marj Al Hamman camp. During the ambassador's visit on Monday,



Tadayuki Nonoyama

four JETT buses came and picked up about 800 people to transport them to the airport.

"The operation of transporting evacuees from this camp is going smoothly and quickly," one of the volunteers, who preferred anonymity, told the Jordan Times.

Asked whether Japan would continue to extend a helping hand to the Jordanian government in dealing with the evacuees' problem, the ambassador said he believed "Japan will do its utmost to relieve the tension in Jordan due to the high number of evacuees entering the country."

Accompanying the Japanese ambassador on the tour was Ali Dajani, member of the Jordanian-Japanese Friendship Association and high ranking officials at the Japanese embassy.

## Badran receives Armenian patriarch

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Monday received visiting Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem and the Holy Land, Archbishop Torkom Manougian, who called to express his deep appreciation of Jordan's enthusiastic welcome accorded to him and his delegation during their current stay in the Kingdom.

The patriarch, who arrived here Friday on a week-long visit to the Kingdom, was also received by Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, with whom he reviewed the situation in the Middle East.

They both called for the implementation of the international laws concerning Arab Jerusalem and the occupied Arab territories, which requires a full withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Arab land and the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Manougian was also received by Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Suleiman Arar, with whom he reviewed developments in the Middle East.

The patriarch emphasised the role played by His Majesty King Hussein at the local and interna-

tional levels to find just political solutions for the region's problems.

The Armenian patriarch was received by the King on Saturday and received from him the official Jordanian recognition of his status as patriarch.

Manougian delivered a speech before the King thanking him for his recognition and describing the Royal decree as a "historic document which perpetuates a venerable tradition that has outlived the centuries, demonstrating the special regard in which successive Islamic rulers have held their Christian communities."

The patriarch said in his address: "Thirty years ago another Armenian patriarch, the late Archbishop Yeghishhe Dendian, has stood before your sublime presence and received from the same Royal hands your seal of confirmation. And today, we have the privilege of witnessing once more the irrefutable reaffirmation of Your Majesty's personal care and concern for the well-being of your Christian population, particularly the Armenians, who believe that they have special place in your affections."

## Libyan Red Crescent offers to help evacuees

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) President Ahmad Aho Qoura discussed Monday with Secretary-General of the Libyan Red Crescent Society Ahmad Al Sharif, who is also secretary general of the International Committee of the Islamic Red Crescent Society, scopes of cooperation between JNRCS and its Libyan counterpart, and the prospect of the Libyan society taking part in pre-empting relief to evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait in Jordan.

Sharif expressed the readiness of the Libyan Red Crescent Society and the International society to help in relief works carried out by the JNRCS.

Abu Qoura, also Monday, met with a delegation representing the Danish Red Cross Society. The delegation was briefed by Aho Qoura on the relief works and on camps established by the JNRCS for evacuees in Al Azraq area.

The Danish delegation expressed

ed readiness to help the JNRCS to contribute in the relief works. The Danish delegation arrived in Amman earlier Monday on a several day visit to the Kingdom to get acquainted with relief works carried out by the JNRCS at two makeshift camps in Azraq area.

The Danish Red Cross Society has decided to send a shipment of relief material to the JNRCS as a contribution to the relief works.

Meatime JNRCS Vice-President Mohammad Al Hadid discussed in a meeting with Regional Deputy Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Nigel Fisher, ways of UNICEF's participation in relief works at the two camps in Al Azraq.

Hadid said UNICEF would finance sanitary services in the two camps and would supply other material for cleaning and sterilisation. He said Fisher informed him that UNICEF would supply JNRCS with tents and blankets if needed.

## 402 students accepted in nursing, paramedics colleges

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Health Ministry has selected 402 male and female students to study nursing, midwifery and paramedics at its institutes out of a total number of 4,323 applicants, according to Director of the ministry's Planning, Research and Training Department, Dr. Jalal Abdul Rahim.

He said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the selection of the 402 candidates was based on the results of the tawjihi examination, the personal interview as well as the geographic distribution of governorates since each of these has a quota, preference was given to the scientific stream graduates.

Abdul Rahim said that 20 per cent of the total number of accepted students went for men, and five per cent to the Jordanian expatriate students.

Abdul Rahim said that the institutions which train these students are: Jordan College of Nursing in Amman, Irbid College of Nursing and Midwifery, Amman Paramedics School which offers courses in X-ray and Midwifery, Amman Paramedics School, which offers courses in X-ray and health control and Irbid Paramedical School which offers similar courses.

The Ministry of Health announced earlier this year that it plans to increase the capacity of its colleges, and develop curricula and teaching methods in order to achieve the aims of self-sufficiency by the year 2000.

A total of 550 foreign workers were reported employed in Jordan at the start of 1990, making up one third of the total number of workers in the Kingdom's hospitals and clinics.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### King congratulates Chile

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable to Chilean President Patricio Aylwin Azcarar to congratulate him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people on the anniversary of Chile's national day. King Hussein wished the president continued good health and happiness and the Chilean people further progress and prosperity.

#### Hawatmeh visits Intifada casualties

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) Nayef Hawatmeh Monday visited people injured in the Palestinian Intifada at the Palestine and the Islamic hospitals here. Hawatmeh wished them speedy recovery in order "to go back to your land to continue your struggle." Hawatmeh is in Jordan at the invitation of the Jordan Arab National Democratic Alliance. He took part in a meeting of Arab political parties and popular organisations which concluded in Amman Monday.

#### UNICEF delivers relief aid

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Monday announced that it delivered to the Jordanian National Committee for Evacuees 19,450 blankets and a quantity of drugs. This brings the total number of UNICEF blankets to the evacuees to almost 20,000. A 29-tonne cargo was airlifted from UNICEF's Copenhagen emergency warehouses aboard a Royal Jordanian charter. UNICEF said that its teams have been touring transit camps in Jordan to determine their needs of relief supplies and the organisation has decided to provide further supplies of tents, mattresses, blankets, medicines, soap, detergents, garbage and cooking sets.

## Australia, Spain contribute relief supplies to evacuees

AMMAN (J.T.) — Australia said it would contribute an additional \$1.5 million in assisting nationals stranded in Jordan as a result of the Gulf crisis. The assistance, which will be in addition to donations of \$500,000 already announced, will be directed to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), according to Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Senator Gareth Evans.

Reports estimate that at any one time about 100,000 people are caught in the Jordanian border bottle-neck, with new arrivals taking the place of those repatriated. An additional 40,000 people in Amman are also reported as being in difficult conditions.

The situation facing foreign nationals from south and south east Asia as well as Egypt is particularly acute. "The enormous dimensions of the repatriation and relief effort are becoming clearer every day," the minister said. "As the numbers escalate, it becomes more and more urgent that people be repatriated quickly, and that emergency supplies be made available until they can be repatriated."

Senator Evans detailed the breakup of the \$1.5 million as follows:

\$750,000 would be allocated to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). This is in addition to the earlier allocation of \$250,000 to the IOM announced by the Australian government last week.

UNICEF would receive \$250,000 to help with the relief needs of women and children, currently an estimated 25 per cent of the population in the staging posts.

A further \$250,000 would be channelled to the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies through the Australian Red Cross Society. This would contribute to the league's relief operations in cooperation with local authorities and Red Crescent Societies.

The remaining \$250,000 would be allocated in various other Australian non-governmental organisations contributing to the emergency relief activities in the area (presently CARE, Austcare and World Vision).

Provision for emergency relief assistance forms part of the government's overseas aid programme administered by the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB). Spain, meanwhile, also offered

aircraft and relief supplies to help the evacuation process.

Spain and the Commission of the European Communities have agreed to co-finance the airlifting of Asian evacuees to their countries by making available an Iberia Airbus A-300 for 10 days as from Sept. 18, 1990, a press release issued by the Spanish embassy said.

The flights will be coordinated by the IOM, and will fly once a day to Karachi. The aircraft and its crew shall be based in Cairo, where Iberia has offices.

On its way back from Karachi, if necessary, the Iberia plane will land again in Amman to transport Egyptian evacuees to Cairo, the release said.

Spain is also sending a second package of humanitarian emergency aid to the Hashemite Kingdom. The aid will be transported on board of Iberia Airbus that Spain has made available, within the framework of the EEC efforts to transport Asian evacuees to their countries.

This second package consists of blankets, tents, medicines and baby foodstuffs. The total weight is 15 tonnes. The aid will be arriving in Jordan next Tuesday, Sept. 18th and will be handed over to the Jordanian authorities for distribution.

## Symposium issues recommendations for promoting services for children

AMMAN (J.T.) — A day-long symposium on the role of voluntary organisations in promoting the causes of women and children Monday issued a set of recommendations designed to promote services for children and demand that Jordan endorse an international world declaration on children's rights.

The symposium, organised by Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), recommended giving higher national priority to matters related to children and implementing this concept through decisions on allocations of funds for children's affairs.

"The symposium called for involving children in matters related to their own affairs and for introducing systems that can ensure the attainment of the aspired goals."

The symposium, which was

part of Jordan's preparations for the World Summit for Children due to be held in New York later this month, urged the concerned health authorities in Jordan to assign additional numbers of beds for children at local hospitals, develop and modernise hospital sections caring for newly born babies, give additional attention to primary health care centres, including neonatal health care, and to encourage various organisations involved in health matters to make additional allocations for child and mother health care.

The symposium, held under the chairmanship of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, chairperson of QAF's board of trustees, said special attention should be given to mothers' nutrition and health so as to reduce infant mortality rates in Jordan and to help mothers given birth to healthier children, to increase and

intensity training courses organised by QAF in cooperation with UNICEF and other organisations on mother and child health care and to conduct an assessment of the various mother and child health care centres with a view of reforming them.

The symposium appealed to various world non-governmental organisations which care for children to provide assistance to the children of the Middle East to help them overcome the present hardships in the region.

The participants also called on world organisations to help end the Palestinian children's sufferings caused by Israel's arbitrary measures, to provide protection to the Iraqi children now facing starvation and the Jordanian children who show solidarity with the children of Iraq and are also affected by the events in the region.

## Journalists briefed on repatriation process by RJ

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national air carrier, Monday briefed local and foreign journalists and representatives of news agencies and television stations on the arrangements at Jordanian airports to secure the repatriation of the largest number of evacuees.

Addressing the journalists during a tour of the Queen Alia International Airport RJ Executive President Akel Biltaji said that Jordan had arranged for an air bridge involving aircraft of various airlines to come and collect the largest possible number of foreign nationals stranded in Jordan after the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2.

"We have adopted the open air space policy to facilitate the process of repatriating the evacuees aboard RJ planes or other aircraft, military or civilian," said Biltaji who accompanied the

group on their visit to the airport facilities.

He said that RJ staff worked round the clock in order to provide services during this hectic operation.

The tour coincided with a statistical bulletin issued by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) here noting that a total of 7,740 passengers were repatriated aboard 32 unscheduled flights from Jordanian airports on Sunday alone.

Aqaba Port authorities reported that a total of 5,981 evacuees left for home by sea Sunday, 2,500 of them were Egyptians who left aboard ferriesboats for Nuweibeh in Sinai.

The port authorities said that the evacuees' camp on the coast of Aqaba now contains 800 Sudanese awaiting a boat to take them home.

The total number of evacuees

leaving Aqaba for home in the first half of September amounted to 49,648 passengers, the authorities said.

The total number of persons, of different nationalities, arriving in Jordan by land Sunday according to the Public Security Department (PSD) is 14,750.

In the meantime, the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have jointly completed preparations at two camps in the Azraq area which together now accommodate 20,000 evacuees.

JNRCS President Ahmad Aho Qoura said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the two camps had been provided with health, water and sanitary services and the evacuees were being offered daily meals. Electric power is also being supplied to the camps.

## China offers to help Jordan take part in the Asian Games

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Olympic Committee (JOC) has just received an offer of assistance from China to enable the 35-member Jordanian team to take part in the Asian Games due to open Saturday, but as the offer came late there is no chance for

Jordan to participate, according to a spokesman for the JOC here Monday.

The JOC had earlier announced that due to financial difficulties it would not be possible for its team of wrestlers, athletes and marksmen to take part in the two-week games to be held in Peking.

The decision not to send the team was taken by the JOC board meeting earlier this month under the chairmanship of Minister of Youth Ibrahim Ghababsheh.

The minister and the JOC Secretary-General Abdullah Abu Nowar are currently in Peking to take part in the general assembly meetings of the Asian Games Council which coincide with the Asian Games, the spokesman said.

A Chinese spokesman in Peking Wu Zhongyuan said China had offered to provide assistance, but the decision came late and the two responsible persons to decide whether a change of plan can be made or not are now in China, making it difficult to arrange for a hasty dispatch of participants, the JOC spokesman said.

The Chinese spokesman said that Jordan had been facing difficulties due to the flood of refugees from Iraq and Kuwait after Iraq's takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2, but noted that he did not know how much money was needed to cover the Jordanian team's participation which includes travel and accommodation.

According to the JOC spokesman, the 35-member team would have included administrative officials and coaches in addition to the participants at the games.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- ★ Art exhibition by Mohammad Nasrallah at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Lajjun — a Roman Frontier Fort" at the Department of Antiquities' Registration and Research Centre, Jabal Amman.

### LECTURE

- ★ Lecture, in Arabic, on "Current Economic Issues" by Dr. Jawad Al Asani at UKAS Club, Jabal Lweibdeh — 8:30 p.m.

### FRENCH MOVIES FESTIVAL

- ★ French film entitled "Je Suis le Seigneur du Chateau" at the Royal Cultural Centre (shows start at 6 and 8 p.m.).

## Exhibition displays 2nd, 3rd centuries exhibits

By Joumana Halasa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Links of the past which enrich the history of Jordan are the focus of an exhibition now under way in Jordan, and it is hoped that glimpses into life in the region during the Roman and Byzantine eras would go a long way in explaining the evolution of the area as an important contribution to world history.

The exhibition, described as highly educational and informative by organisers, and opened by Abdul Karim Kabarti, minister of tourism last Monday, seeks to display "the ancient roots of civilisation, culture and the lifestyle of the Romans and Byzantines who ruled the region in the second and third centuries A.D.," according to Aida

Noweighi of the Department of Antiquities.

The department, which organised the exhibition in cooperation with University of North Carolina, sees the event as an important contribution to efforts to unveil the intricacies surrounding the Roman and Byzantine life through its display of figurines and weapons uncovered by excavators at the various ancient castles dotting the Jordanian countryside and desert.

The desert castles, a popular attraction for every tourist visiting Jordan, were built by the Romans and Byzantines primarily for the purposes of defending themselves against attacks from the nomadic tribes in the region who refused to accept the invaders' domination. "Fiddlers at the castles

together with the castles themselves, are very important and very educational, especially to school students who can obtain vast knowledge and in-depth details of the history of the region," according to Nuweighi.

Hannan Kurdi, also of the Department of Antiquities, said video cassettes and coloured pictures were available at the exhibition to benefit schoolchildren.

The exhibition, which was originally scheduled to end by mid-September, has been extended until mid-October to offer the chance to school students and others to familiarise themselves with the history as represented by the objects on display. It is held at the Research and Registration Section at the Department of Antiquities.



## Jordan Times

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## We, the people

THE ARAB STATES are divided into three groups over the conflict in the Gulf. There is Iraq, subjected to military pressure and total economic embargo, there is the 12 Arab countries that stand behind the U.S. in demanding Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait, and there is the nine Arab countries that oppose Western military deployment and which call for an Arab solution to the crisis.

And there is the Arab people all over the Arab World, who, just on the eve of the Gulf crisis, were battling for more democracy and human rights. These people's battle was of course dealt a blow by foreign intervention in the crisis. Those who had already gained some democratic ground immediately turned their attention and strength to rejection of foreign intervention. Those who had not gained any democratic ground had to cover under their governments' calls for defence of "national security."

The Amman conference that ended yesterday represented most of the first group and only a few of the second. Moroccans and Syrians were among the few. Egyptian political leaders were barred by the Egyptian authorities from attending the conference; and of course no-one expected any Saudi or Gulf nationals to attend.

To a large extent, the conference represented the pulse of the Arab Nation in regard to the Gulf crisis. The participants, who represented political parties, trade and professional unions, Islamists and nationalists, Christians and Muslims, and among others Palestinian leaders, passed a number of resolutions that represented the full spectrum of the Arab masses' reaction to the Gulf crisis. The resolutions ranged from calls for a holy war against the Americans to an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis. Rhetorics aside, the Arab people, as the Amman conference has demonstrated, are eager to see a peaceful solution, not only to the Gulf conflict but to all the region's crises.

The Arab people, for decades striving for better political, economic and social life, feel extremely desperate that Western intervention in the region will lead to a devastating war and to a new era of Western colonialism.

As far as the Arab masses are concerned, Iraq, regardless of all Western claims and charges, represents a modern regional power that could counterbalance Israel and ensure the Arabs a fair deal with the West. At the moment the Arab masses feel strongly against any attempt under the guise of international law to starve the Iraqi people. Most importantly the Arab people and popular Arab leaders want a solution within the Arab context.

A solution imposed from the outside, with the blessing of some Arab leaders, will not hold. The Arab people, as the resolutions of their conference yesterday show, will resort to every single action called for during the conference, including suicide attacks to fend off aggression on Iraq. Then all the calls for reason and peace that emanate from Amman at the moment will have fallen on deaf ears. And, then, regret will only be stupid and ludicrous.

## Arabic Press Commentaries

Al Ra'i Arabic daily said Monday that the Arabs are pained to see France taking hasty and uncalculated decision to send troops to the Arabian Peninsula to confront the Iraqi forces at a time when Paris is striving hard to build a united Europe with total independence from Washington's policies and stands. The paper said that perhaps the French feared that they would be left out in the dark, once the Arab victims had fallen and that they could be deprived of the booty once the Iraqis have been defeated should they fail to join the American-led alliance in confrontation with Saddam Hussein.

Napoleon Bonaparte's successes were the last victories for France throughout its modern history, and since the downfall of Napoleon Paris had been meeting with one defeat after another and losing all its colonies, said the paper. France had lost South East Asia, North Africa and other colonies at the hand of the liberation movements; and was dealt a severe blow as a result of its participation in the tripartite aggression on Egypt in 1956, the paper continued. It said that it was the socialists who always brought about defeats to France whenever they had been in power and it was France under the socialists that had been failing to honour its commitments like those made to Lebanon, and it was the socialists who had been manifesting their hostility towards the Arabs, and therefore socialist France is bound to acquire the lion's share in the defeat in the Gulf, the paper added. The paper asked how would Charles De Gaulle react, had he been alive today, to seeing the French serving under the American leadership after his long struggle to maintain France's independence and its backing for the human rights of various nations?

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily says that the Iraqi people are not expected to kneel in the face of the mounting military and political pressure on its leadership; and if anything, the current embargo would not doubt consolidate their determination and will. Faced with the sanctions and the closed borders, the Iraqi people are bound to release their hidden skills and internal forces in agriculture and production, and will survive and come out victorious, says Husein Ayesb. Iraq does not depend on rain water for land reclamation or land reform and agricultural production; and can turn all attention now towards farming, the writer notes. He says that indeed the presence of oil in Iraq had been cause for weak agricultural production in the past years, but the present situation is bound to enable the Iraqis to exploit their lands fully, and offset the results of the blockade. The writer draws a contrast between the Iraqis under siege and Russia during the Second World War and the people of Palestine during the ongoing intifada, and says that the siege has served as a catalyst to encourage the people to rely more and more on themselves. The paper says that Iraqis holding foreign passports, who have been returning to Iraq in great numbers to help their nation in this difficult moment, stand out as witness to the nation's determination to come out victorious.

# Iranian threat seen in Gulf as 'token' support for Iraq

By Mariani Isa  
Reuter

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia — Gulf Arab states do not take seriously Iranian threats against U.S. forces in the region and see them as merely token support for Iraq in return for a formal end to the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

"It costs nothing and it will help them to extract a final treaty from Iraq. It makes a lot of sense," one Gulf diplomat said on Sunday.

Calls by top Iranian Shi'ite Muslim clerics last week to expel U.S. troops from Saudi Arabia raised fears of terrorist attacks on Western forces massing in the area and speculation over an alliance between the former foes.

But the diplomats said Iran, while keen to reap the benefits of recent Iraqi concessions on territory and troops withdrawals, was unlikely to sacrifice a "golden opportunity" to improve ties with Western powers and other Gulf Arab neighbours.

"These threats are only verbal concessions to Baghdad to finalise an agreement which (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein would accept," one senior Arab diplomat said.

"But the threats are not being taken seriously. Iran is seeking to placate its enemy with meaningless tokens," he said.

The head of Iran's Council of Experts Clerical Assembly said in a sermon on Friday Iran would regard the United States as the main enemy and fight against it if war broke out in the Gulf.

His remarks came two days after a fiery speech by Iran's supreme religious leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who said the fight against U.S. forces in the Gulf amounted to a jihad, or Muslim holy war.

Another senior Iranian cleric, Ayatollah Abdolkarim Mousavi Ardebili, denounced the American buildup near Muslim shrines in Saudi Arabia at a prayer meeting at Tehran University on Friday.

Western diplomats said the remarks reflected division between the fundamentalist and pragmatic wings of the Iranian leadership, but did not mean radicals had the upper hand.

An Arab diplomat said Tehran had agreed to give Baghdad moral support during a visit by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz last week, but attempts to extract a sanctions-busting harter deal were unsuccessful.

The two sides agreed to reopen embassies in each other's capitals, during the talks between Aziz and his counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati.

The visit followed Saddam's decision last month to concede virtually all of Iran's terms for a formal end of the war halted by a U.N.-brokered ceasefire in August 1988.

They included acceptance of a 1975 border treaty Saddam publicly tore up at the start of the war in 1980 and withdrawal from Iranian territory.

The pullout freed thousands of Iraqi troops from the 1,200-kilometre frontier with Iran to confront Arab and Western forces massing in Saudi Arabia in response to Iraq's Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait.

Iran's National Security Council, chaired by President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, told Iraq on Saturday to withdraw from Kuwait and reiterated Tehran's commitment to enforcing U.N. sanctions against Baghdad.

PARIS. — Only by tightening belts now can the industrial world head off the risk that rising oil prices will spur runaway inflation, Western economic policy-makers say.

The message that will go forth from a flurry of high-level meetings in Paris this week is that monetary policy should remain tight, and interest rates high, to keep inflation from feeding through into higher business costs and wage claims.

"If inflation goes up, interest rates should go up by at least as much," said one diplomat specialising in economic affairs who was preparing for this week's meetings of officials from leading industrial nations.

Tentative computer simulations by the International Monetary Fund and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development corroborate the kneejerk reaction most economists had to the surge in oil prices prompted by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2, officials say.

A confidential report by the Washington-based IMF says the impact of oil at \$25 a barrel will be significant but "by no means devastating."

Growth is likely to be trimmed by a quarter point this year and the same amount next year, the report says.

The OECD tentatively estimates that inflation next year in the group's 24 member countries could average five to six per cent instead of the 4.4 per cent rate projected in June.

Gross national product growth, meanwhile, is likely to slow by about half a percentage point to between two and 2.5 per cent instead of the 2.9 per cent that the OECD projected in June.

"We feel there'll be a slow-down into the low two per cent range, but we don't think it'll go any further than that," an economist at the Paris-based think tank said.

"Although nobody is relaxed, then as long as oil stays in the \$25 to \$30 range, the pure economic effects may not be too severe," the diplomatic economic specialist in Paris added. "They can be dealt with without draconian measures."

Yet that optimistic assessment assumes, crucially, that policy-makers will not repeat the mistake of the first oil shock in 1973, when they tried to offset the loss of spending power in the world economy by flooding their banking systems with cash.

The result was the beginning of an inflation that was only rooted out with the worldwide recession of the early 1980s.

"I can't see any reason to talk about runaway inflation unless people get silly," an international economist said. "The underlying thrust of our message is that monetary policy should be steady-as-she-goes."

The OECD believes easing policy would be counterproductive because investors, increasingly sophisticated in interpreting central bank actions, would demand higher returns on their money to protect themselves against the risk of inflation.

"If there is a generalised effort to buffer the side effects (of higher oil prices), there'll be a quick reaction, especially in the bond markets," a second economist said.

Bond yields have in fact gone up since the Iraqi invasion, reflecting the mechanical impact that dearer oil will have on inflation. But so far there is no sign of

central banks' loosening the monetary reins. Indeed, Japan, as had been long expected, raised its discount rate earlier this month.

"We're recommending a non-accommodative monetary policy," the economic diplomat said. "And that seems to be what central banks are doing, at least for the moment."

Echoing European Community finance ministers who met in Rome at the weekend, central bank governors from the group of 10 industrial countries agreed in Basel on Monday that monetary policy should not be relaxed, a senior G-10 official said.

The IMF predicts short-term rates next year will average 0.8 percentage point higher than otherwise, assuming oil at \$25 a barrel, although it says the rise could be a full percentage point in the United States.

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# West needs to tighten belts to avoid inflation

By Alan Wheatley  
Reuter

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# Refugees in Somalia face starvation

By Rowena Whelan  
Reporter

**MOGADISHU** — Refugees in northern Somalia are facing starvation 12 years after they fled from war in the Horn of Africa, once a proxy battlefield in the superpowers' cold war.

The United Nations last month stopped sending food to tens of thousands of refugees who escaped the 1977-78 war between Ethiopia and Somalia over the Ogaden desert region.

Food stocks are nearly exhausted and, in a region steeped in violence, aid workers fear refugees may try to seize any supplies that become available at gunpoint.

"Those who are weak will starve and those who are strong will do whatever they can to survive," forecast Yusuf Abdi Shirdon, deputy head of the government's National Refugee Commission.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) announced aid would be phased out after Ethiopia and Somalia signed a peace agreement in 1988.

Diplomats said the U.N. operation — which cost \$400 million over the past 10 years — was initially backed by the West to help Somalia against the Soviet-allied Ethiopia.

But that strategic rationale faded when the United States and Soviet union abandoned rivalry in the Horn of Africa.

The UNHCR calculates there are still about 600,000 refugees in Somalia and has offered 460,000 living in the south the choice of repatriation to Ethiopia or help to settle in Somalia.

The main worry for aid workers is the more complex situation in the north, where the government is fighting a brutal two-year war with the rebel Somali National Movement (SNM).

Aid workers and Somali officials say no one knows how many refugees there are in the north, and until this month Mogadishu blocked requests to count those in 11 camps in the region.

The UNHCR's latest estimate is 140,000; the government had more than doubled that total apparently to keep up food supplies that are the economic mainstay of the impoverished region.

Despite continued wrangling about numbers, Western and Somali officials agree many thousands still depend on food aid.

They say mass hunger now looms, not only in the camps but among Somali civilians caught in the cross-fire between the government and rebels.

Fresh relief efforts are being stalled, however, partly by the involvement of some Ogadeni refugees in the conflict.

The reasons why they began fighting are disputed: Some say youths were press-ganged by government security forces, others say fighters volunteered to protect the camps.

The SNM asserts the armed refugees are a tribal militia backing Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre and that the UNHCR was siding with the government in providing aid to the camps.

Aid officials say that was one reason why the UNHCR decided it had to withdraw and is preventing other aid agencies from taking on a role that could compromise their neutrality.

Deteriorating security for food convoys after the SNM launched an offensive in May 1988 to end Siad Barre's 20-year rule was another factor behind the UNHCR's decision to quit, they say.

So was evidence that the army had taken supplies bound for the camps.

"It would be difficult for any humanitarian organisation to operate in the north," Barry Rigby, UNHCR representative in Mogadishu, told visiting journalists recently.

But the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which has treated casualties in the north since 1988 and gives some food aid, says the United Nations should have stayed until an alternative relief programme had been established.

"The stopping of U.N. food aid to the north destabilises the whole area," said one senior Red Cross official in Mogadishu. It could jeopardise ICRC operations, he added.

Donor interest in providing fresh aid for Somalia seems slight. A UNHCR appeal for \$60 million to help repatriate or settle refugees in the south has so far fallen on deaf ears.

Some diplomats say Western interest might revive if the United States seeks to renew access to the Gulf of Aden port and 4,500-metre (yard) runway at Berbera due to the Mideast crisis.

A defence pact giving the U.S. access to the facilities, signed in 1980, is still in force.

But Washington, which ended military aid to Somalia in protest at human rights abuses, has made no public move.

Meanwhile negotiations over the northern refugees between aid agencies, Mogadishu, rebel factions and donors continue.

"The trouble is everything takes time in Somalia and time is running out," said one aid official. "In two or three weeks there will be a terrible mess in the north."



File photo of refugees fleeing Ogaden to Somalia in the late seventies.

# Ghosts and witchcraft

By Cris Chinaka  
Reporter

**HARARE** — Amon burst into tears as he approached the cemetery on the edge of the village and collapsed in the dust at the sight of his father's grave.

After 10 minutes or so he recovered, squatted before the grave and began clapping in a stately style, calling out the names and hoozies of his ancestors and telling each one of them: "I am back, my elder."

"It was the return of a native son to his roots."

The grip of the rural Zimbabwean village and its customs on the populace has outlasted more than a century of foreign cultural influence and even thrives in towns today.

"We owe the survival of most of our customs to fear," says Innocent Makooze, a Roman Catholic priest and qualified sociologist.

On his return from 15 years of study and work in Europe, Amon's first call was to the family cemetery where they buried his parents in his absence.

He organised a lavish party for close relatives to appease his ancestral spirits and "thank them for looking after me in the wilderness."

Belief in the supernatural powers of the dead to bless or curse a person remains a major element in Zimbabwean life.

The Shona and Ndebele, who constitute 98 per cent of the population, believe dead relatives protect and guide them in their daily lives, enforcing correct behaviour by punitive action.

Makooze told Reuters: "If you have been brought up under this diet, there is very little room for wayward behaviour."

Most misfortunes from acci-

dents, illness or death are attributed to evil spirits, witches and the inability of a person's ancestral spirits to protect him.

In rural areas, where 80 per cent of the country's 10 million people live, aggrieved peasants are quick to accuse those they suspect of casting spells and "causing" the death or illness of relatives.

Hundreds of people are convicted annually by the courts for violating the suppression of witchcraft act which forbids this practice.

Consulting traditional faith healers has also survived years of condemnation by Christians and "modernists" who say the custom is atheistic and retrogressive.

For the first three years after parliament legalised their controversial profession in 1981, the 20,000 witch-doctors (N'Gangas) belonging to the Zimbabwe National Traditional Healers' Association (ZINATHA) fought off concerted attacks on their medical skills.

Now, six years later, there is an official lobby campaigning to have medical aid associations and employers accept claims from those who consult N'Gangas.

Zinatha's Western-educated president, Professor Gordon Chavunduka, said the initial propaganda had died and both blacks and whites consult N'Gangas.

"For most of our so-called detractors, it is just posturing. They do what they think is expected of them," said Chavunduka, who is also dean of the faculty of social studies at the University of Zimbabwe.

"Because of the propaganda, most people, especially the elite in urban areas, do not admit in public that they rely on us," he told Reuters.

movement."

The national committee, which would comprise representatives from all parties and organisations across the Arab World, will serve as an umbrella for all pan-Arab concerns and interests.

The conference's participants, representing pan-Arab, leftist and Islamic political trends across the Arab World, agreed on the following:

— That the U.S.-led intervention in the region is "an act of aggression against the Arab Nation; it is not a reaction to the takeover of Kuwait by Iraq but a premeditated move to loot and control Arab oil; it is a move to strengthen feudal oil sheikdoms and thus a move to undermine democratic forces in the Arab World, and it was against the interests of the Arab people."

To thwart the economic embargo on Iraq the conference said that a special fund, the Iraqi Child Fund, would be founded to collect donations and participants at the conference would support a Maghreb-led initiative which would send a shipload of food and medical supplies to Iraq with the participation of Arab women and children.

The final communiqué also called on the Arab troops sent to fight Iraq alongside American and foreign troops to rebel against their governments' orders.

Long-term objectives of the permanent national committee included an introduction and consolidation of the "democratic course" and a defence of human rights for "Arabs everywhere."

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Ordinary issue No 17

Drawing of Sept. 17, 1990

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# China predicts fierce medal competition at Asian Games

PEKING (AP) — Chinese officials predicted Sunday their team would come out on top in the tight race for gold medals at the Asian Games which open here this week.

"My objective is that the number of Chinese medals will pass at least 94," Yuan Weimin, chairman of the 799-member Chinese delegation, told a news conference. China won that many golds at the 1986 Asian Games in Seoul, South Korea, putting it in first place, one ahead of the host.

But the upcoming 11th Asian Games has more events and more golds than in Seoul, and Yuan acknowledged that winning the race for gold this time will mean capturing at least 100.

"We will strive for it," he said, but added, "I don't like to brag before a competition. In Asia there are many strong competitors. I do believe... the competition for gold medals will be even

more fierce" than in 1986. Chinese officials have become more cautious in setting medal goals since being sharply disappointed by their teams' performances at the last two Olympics.

However, the Chinese media has predicted a home sweep of medals in track and field and swimming and diving. The Chinese also are expected to do well in wushu, cycling, women's weightlifting and women's softball.

Li Chunyang, 22, winner of the horizontal bar gold medal at last year's World Cup competition, predicted Chinese gymnasts would win half of the medals in their spheres despite the recent retirement of China's most famous contender. He said Japan offered the greatest threat. China has been taking part in as many international competitions as possible in the past year to give

its athletes broad experience. About half of its Asian Games squad competed in the Seoul Asian Games and Seoul Olympics in 1988.

For decades, Chinese athletes have been told to win for the glory of the motherland and socialism. Yuan confirmed that victors at the Asian Games also will be given financial prizes by the state, but declined to say how much.

"For China, which is a socialist country, what we should concentrate on is education, patriotism, devotion and a spirit of striving for better results," he said.

The Olympic Council of Asia, which administers the Asian Games, will vote Thursday on a recommendation by its executive bureau to ban Iraq from play because of the invasion. Wu said the Palestine team earlier considered a possible no-show, has begun arriving.

Meanwhile more than 200 Taiwanese athletes left for Peking to attend the Asian Games Monday, marking the first time a Taiwanese delegation will participate in the games in 20 years.

Taiwan was barred from the Asian Games in 1970 when China was admitted. It was recently re-admitted after it agreed to participate under the name of "Chinese Taipei" instead of its official name of "Republic of China."

The 310-member delegation, including 220 athletes, boarded Cathay Pacific chartered plane. There are no direct flights between the two countries because the Nationalist government in Taiwan has refused to establish direct air links with the rival communist government. The Nationalist government has allowed civilian exchanges with China since 1987 but still refuses official contact with Peking.

## Top stars lose in new U.K. student games track

SHEFFIELD, England (AP) — World record holders said Aoudia, Steve Backley and Steve Cram suffered defeats Sunday as Britain unveiled its 1991 World Student Games venue at the McVie's challenge meet.

Aoudia, the Moroccan world record holder in the 1,500, 3,000 and 5,000 metres, finished third behind Britain's Gary Staines and Poland's Slawomir Majusiak in a 3,000-metre race in the Sheffield International Stadium.

Backley, the Briton who broke the javelin record with a throw of 90.98 metres in July, was beaten by countryman Mick Hill on his first appearance in Britain since Hill had three throws better than Backley's best of 84.42.

Cram, Britain's world record holder for the mile, produced his fastest run of the season in the 1,500 metres. But he was edged by countryman Peter Elliott who produced a time of 3 minutes 32.69 seconds.

Meanwhile, Britain's Linford Christie eased past his rivals to a 100-metre victory and Britain's other European champions, 400-metre hurdler Kris Akabusi, 400-metre runner Roger Black, 800-metre star Tom McKean and 3,000-metre gold medalist Yvonne Murray all won their races.

Britain's Mark Rowland beat Kenyan Olympic champion Julius Kariuki in the 2,000-metre steeplechase and countryman Michael Rossweiss, who finished second to Christie in the 100 metres, beat European champion John Regis over 200 metres.

American victors were Sandra Farmer-Patrick in the women's 400-metre hurdles, Kory Tarpenning in the pole vault and Tony Dees in the men's 110-metre hurdles. Farmer-Patrick clocked 56.05 seconds ahead of Britain's Sally

Gunnell and Anna Ambrazienė of the Soviet Union. Tarpenning climbed to 5.83 in the pole vault to beat Austrian Hermann Fehringer and Vladimir Polyakov of the Soviet Union, while Dees clocked 13.50 to beat Britain's European silver medalist, Tony Jarrett.

Elliott produced his fastest ever 1,500-metre race to beat Cram.

A talented field that includes Kenyan David Kibet, Moses Kipranui and Ibrahim Al Ghazali, was left behind as the two Britons produced a mid-race surge.

It was a two-man race with 700 metres remaining and Cram stayed two metres behind Elliott but was unable to close the gap. At the tape, Elliott clocked 3:32.69 to beat Steve Ovett's 11-year best on a British track of 3:34.00.

Despite his defeat, Aoudia was pleased with his performance in the 3,000 metres because it showed he had recovered from calf muscle operations.

He closed on the leaders with 400 metres remaining but was unable to catch Staines, who clocked 7 minutes 51.32 and Majusiak, who managed 7:51.58.

Aoudia's time was 7:52.56. "It is very good to have a run like this at this stage," said Aoudia, who needed 25 stitches in his left leg and 22 in his right when surgeons repaired the calf injuries. "I am surprised how well I raced. I have only had one other race since the operation."

Backley did not throw past 80 metres until his fifth heave, when he managed 84.42. Hill, who has started using the same Nemeth javelin Backley used to set the world mark, already had thrown a personal best of 85.88 and managed two more of 85.86 and 84.56.

## Americans win men's, women's mountain cycling events

DURANGO, Colorado (AP) — Hometown favorite Ned Overend rode away from Switzerland's Thomas Frischknecht early on the third lap Sunday and pedaled to victory in the Senior Men's Cross Country Race, the final event of the World Mountain Bike Championships.

Overend, 35, a former junior collegiate track and cross country runner, completed the four-lap, 52-kilometre course at Purgatory Ski Resort in 2 hours, 28 minutes and 31 seconds.

Frischknecht, 20, a former junior world cyclo-cross champion, was second in the prestige event of the inaugural championships in 2:31:07. Tim Gould, 26, of Britain, finished third in 2:31:55.

Former U.S. national ski team member Juliana Furtado upset overwhelming favorite Sarah Ballantyne of the United States in the earlier 39-kilometre women's race in 2:09:27.

While climbing a steep hill early on the third lap, Overend rode away from his Swiss opponent

and built his margin to 1:02 entering the final lap.

"I wasn't sure my fitness level was going to hang on," said Overend, who rode together with Frischknecht for half of the 130-rider race along dirt and rocky trails. "My legs hurt after the two laps."

Overend, among the highest paid athletes in the sport, earned \$2,460 from a purse of \$30,000.

Furtado, 23, the 1989 national Road Race champion who began mountain biking two years ago, built an early 40-second lead and steadily increased her margin.

Ballantyne, 29, winner of numerous domestic and international titles, was second in 2:11:54. Reigning National Road Race champion Ruthie Matthes, 23, completed a top three U.S. women's sweep in 2:12:52.

"I knew if I climbed the hills first I could win because I can descend as well as anyone," said Furtado, who took up road racing several years ago to recover from more than a half-dozen knee operations.

## Heaven and hell await

### Beckenbauer in Marseille

PARIS (R) — Heaven and hell await Franz Beckenbauer when he arrives in Marseille this week with the mission to turn France's top soccer club into Europe's greatest.

Beckenbauer, whose career suggests he was born with a divine right to success, will be alighting in the Mediterranean port like a deus ex machina but he could soon find he has descended uncomfortably far.

Karlheinz Forster, the West German stopper who spent four years with Marseille before retiring this year, knows better than most what Beckenbauer faces.

"Franz will find heaven and hell," he said. "It's a strong team with a president devoted to his club and a public as good as in Naples."

"But it's also a club which can't match Bayern Munich or the Italian clubs in terms of facilities. I'm sure he'll be a bit shocked."

"There's no club house, no training pitch, the dressing-rooms are not of European standard and the medical facilities need improving."

It was the aura of success surrounding the 45-year-old Beckenbauer, who led his country to World Cup triumph in Italy little more than two months ago, which persuaded Marseille's millionaire boss Bernard Tapie that he was the answer to a prayer.

Tapie, fuelled by an almost religious obsession to transform Marseille into a soccer superpower and become the first French club to win the European Cup, chased Beckenbauer's signature with the devotion of a pilgrim pursuing the Holy Grail.

"Tapie spoke to me about getting Beckenbauer three years ago," Forster said. "That shows just how much he is prepared to fight for what he wants."

Beckenbauer, who often said in the past he was not interested in coaching a club team, admitted it was Tapie's persistence which convinced him to change his mind.

"Bernard Tapie is a very persuasive man," he said. "For me, it's a real challenge. France is not among the great soccer nations."

With my experience, I will try to contribute to its progression."

The challenge is daunting. There is a bottom line to Tapie's money-no-object assaults on the transfer market to assemble a team worth at least \$30 million at current rates.

In the club president's eyes, Marseille have to win the European Cup within the two years of Beckenbauer's contract or the new technical director will be deemed a failure.

Even his salary is almost totally geared to winning titles. Tapie has said Beckenbauer's contract is worth 2.3 million francs (\$330,000) a year but that it will double if Marseille win the European Cup and the French double.

The European Cup order is a tall one. Real Madrid have consistently spent a fortune but have been unable to win the trophy in 24 years.

For all their millions, Barcelona have never claimed it and affluent Bayern Munich have always failed since Beckenbauer the player left their ranks.

Beckenbauer is well aware that his presence alone cannot guarantee success. "You can't win the European Cup on demand," he said. "It has to be earned and you need some luck too. Let's just try to reach the quarter or semifinals first."

Luck was what he lacked last year when a handball goal by Benfica's Vata in the semifinal cost them a place in the final and the chance to beat an off-colour AC Milan in Vienna.

But the material for such a triumph is clearly at hand. Six of the team, including the brilliant striking duo of Jean-Pierre Papin and Eric Cantona, are in the French national squad.

Foreign stars Dragan Stojkovic of Yugoslavia, Englishman Chris Waddle and Carlos Mozzer of Brazil have added the extra ingredient of class which divides great teams from good ones.

Beckenbauer's first opponents Dinamo Tirana of Albania, who arrive in France this week for a first-round match, look little more than common-fodder alongside the Marseille millionaires.

## HOCKEY

### Moscow Dynamo Defeats Montreal Canadiens 4-1

MOSCOW (AP) — Moscow Dynamo scored three goals on power plays, handing the weary Montreal Canadiens a 4-1 defeat Sunday, the first loss for the NHL team on its Soviet trip.

The wear-and-tear of three games in five days in three cities took its toll on the Canadiens, as Dynamo skated to a 3-0 lead with Montreal shorthanded on each goal.

The Canadiens played too aggressively, resulting in a game misconduct to Todd Ewen in the opening minutes and a 10-minute misconduct to Brent Gilchrist at the end of the first period.

There also were several roughing and charging penalties that led to more than a half-dozen

skirmishes as well as three Dynamo goals.

"We have had a heavy schedule," Montreal coach Pat Burns said.

"We didn't practise yesterday and today, and are a little worn."

The Canadiens had played previously in Leningrad Wednesday and Riga Friday.

"We came into Moscow yesterday with little sleep, then had to wait two hours at the airport for buses," Burns said.

Moscow was sluggish from the start, and Dynamo dominated the early going, scoring at 12:34 of the first period. Alexander Semak got the goal with defenseman Matt Scheider off for high sticking.

### Michael Andreotti beats dad to win Red Roof Inns 200

LEXINGTON, Ohio (AP) — A crucial mistake by Michael Andreotti turned out to be a blessing Sunday as he survived an off-course excursion and went on to beat his father, Mario, in the Red Roof Inns 200.

The younger Andreotti, who started from the pole, dominated the race until he slid off the wet track and through grass and gravel and nearly reaching the guardrail, one lap past the halfway mark in the 89-lap, 322.20-kilometre race.

Michael's momentum kept his Chevrolet-powered Lola from becoming mired in the grass. But the slide gave the lead to Mario Andreotti and set his son back to third, behind Eddie Cheever.

The younger Andreotti quickly moved up to challenge Cheever, a Formula One veteran in his first full season on the cart-indy-car circuit.

As the two Lolas duelled on lap 57, Andreotti tagged Cheever in the rear, puncturing Cheever's right rear tire and knocking his own front wing askew.

"I flat-spotted the right front tire when I spun," Michael said. "When I tried to pass him, I looked up that tire and hit Eddie. It was totally my fault."

"I had a broken wing and I thought we'd have to just bring it home second. Theo [I started to rain and the car was like magic with that broken wing. It was like that made the adjustment in the wet.]"

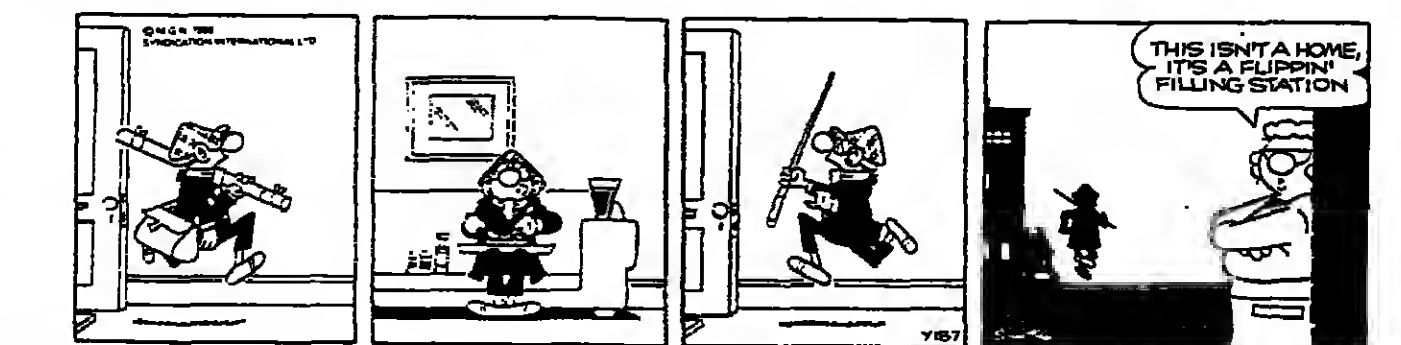
The aftermath of his tangle with Cheever left Michael second, trailing his father by 13.18 seconds.

A sudden downpour on lap 60 sent all the leaders scurrying for the pits for rain tires before bringing out a full-course caution flag on lap 61.

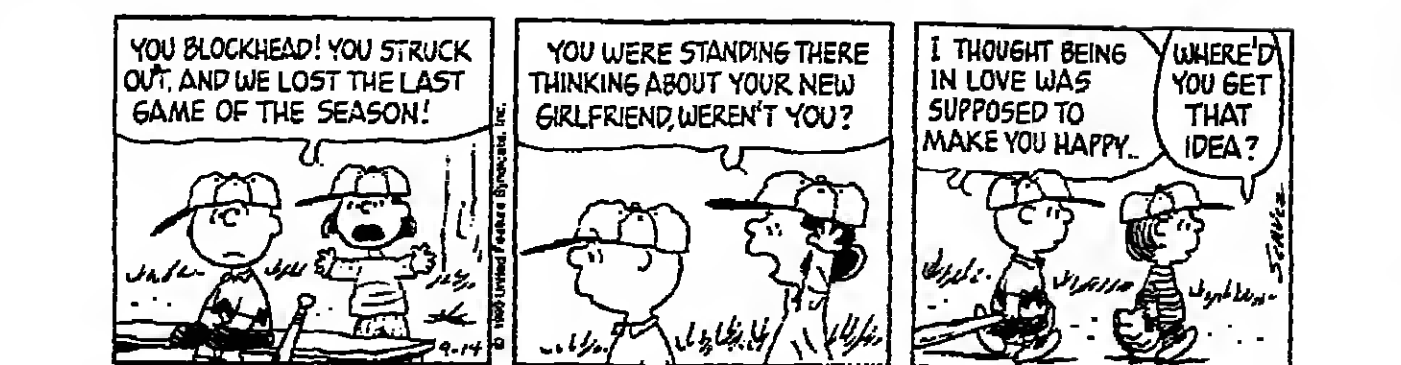
## Mutt'n'Jeff



## Andy Capp



## Peanuts



## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today New Moon gives you a chance to wind up whatever has been pending but as yet not satisfactorily completed. Unique conditions are working in your favour at the present time.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A situation regarding some duties you are committed to do early can necessitate approaching them from a different angle but tonight finds work going smoothly.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You had expected some outlet that brings you joy but it seems early as if this is not possible but later in the day clouds lift and you are happy.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A home condition appears to block some progress you wish to make but view it calmly and in the evening all is solved to your satisfaction.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Communications seems to be difficult to get out the early part of the day but think them over more carefully and later you do a brilliant job.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Avoid taking up a money matter in the morning for it can be better attended to later in the day when a more beneficial influence is in effect.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Watch your P's and Q's where anyone in a position of power or

authority is concerned early in the day but later you can gain headway in a world of action.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A private anxiety can take up much of your time in the morning but later you are free to be off to new scenes and personalities to learn.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Don't let a gossiping friend take so much of your time but get into the various means by which you can have more operative skill in business.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Don't get involved in some tense situation between a bigwig and an outside associate but hold tongue; later they patch things up to your benefit.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Forget some tensions about a new condition and put your energies and your focus upon doing whatever your activities so they are more efficient.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You are too concerned by the cost of some outlet that could be very helpful to you so consider carefully and in the evening you can put this project across.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Don't allow an outsider to become involved in a strictly home or family matter and then harmony is not only maintained but more happiness follows.

## THE BETTER HALF.

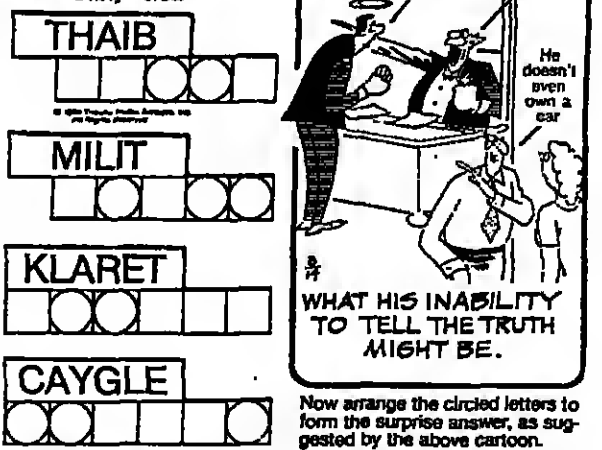
By Harris



"I have a \$125,000 offer for your house. One dollar per week for 125,000 weeks."

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

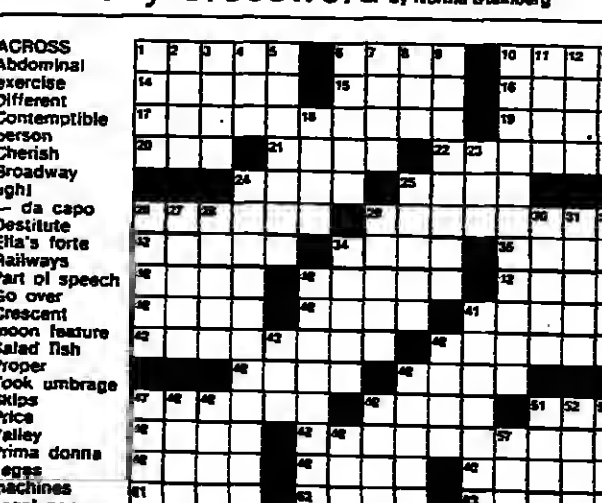


Answer: A "THAIB" - "MILIT" - "KLARET" - "CAYGLE"

Yesterday's Jumble: OFTEN GUEST FRENZY ARTFUL

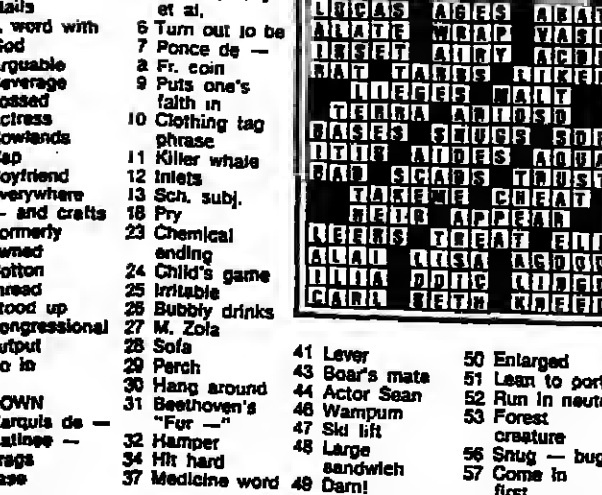
Answer: What the taxidermist was by nature - STUFFY

## THE Daily Crossword by Norma Steinberg



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSCH  
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### ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ 762 : 7AKQ63 : 95 : 65

Partner opens the bidding with one trump. What do you respond?

A.—With ruffing values in the minor suits, you should make every effort to find an eight-card fit in a major. Start by bidding two clubs—a request for partner to show a major. Raise any major bid to game; jump to three hearts if partner denies a major by rebidding two diamonds.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ 83 : Q65 : KQ63 : 9872

The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 : Pass 1 NT Pass 3 : Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A.—You don't know partner's distribution—it could be 4-4 or 5-3 or 5-4. The one thing you can't do is bid three eo trump with one suit unstoppped, and don't raise partner's second suit with only three-card support. Make a waiting bid of three spades to see what he does next.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ AJ103 : AK762 : AQ95 : Void

Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?

A.—Since you haven't the faintest idea where this hand is going to be played, a jump shift now just consumes space unnecessarily. Start by responding one heart. You can jump-shift next round, if necessary.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South

you hold:

♠ AQJ104 : 83 : KQ10963 : Void

The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 : 2 : 2 : 2

What do you bid now?

A.—Again, you don't know where you want to play this hand, so don't start with a cue-bid of three clubs—that could get the bidding too high. Be content with a response of two diamonds. Cue-bid only after you've located a trump fit.

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ KJ643 : A8 : AJ9872 : Void

The bidding has proceeded: South West North East 1 : Pass 1 NT East 1 : Pass 2 : 2

What do you bid now?

A.—This hand is different—you know where you want to play, but not how high. A strong distributional hand has improved because of the huge fit with partner. Convey the good news by cue-bidding three clubs.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ A8 : KJ1098632 : A8 : 7

The bidding has proceeded: South West North East 1 : Pass 2 : 2

What do you bid now?

A.—You have only one strain where you want to play the hand—hearts. Jump to four hearts to convey a one-suited hand of limited strength. With a really good hand, you would have jumped to three hearts.



## Poland expects drastic cut in Soviet oil supply in '91

WARSAW (R) — Poland expects a drastic cut in crude oil supplies from the Soviet Union next year but has denied reports that Moscow would stop deliveries altogether.

"The Soviet Union wants to drastically limit oil exports to the former Soviet Bloc countries and negotiations are under way," said Andrzej Charlemagne, a spokesman for the government's Central Planning Office.

He said a Polish delegation had visited Moscow for talks recently and been told to expect a significant drop in supplies.

"So the situation with our oil imports is not funny. We're still talking with Moscow, but pessimists estimate that they will sell us in 1991 not more than one third of what was planned for this year, or around four million tonnes of crude," he noted.

Charlemagne denied a Polish newspaper report which quoted a government official as saying Moscow would stop all oil exports to East European neighbours next year and would refuse to sell even for hard currency.

The report in the government newspaper Rzeczpospolita said Moscow had already signed contracts with other countries to sell all oil which was surplus to its own needs.

The Soviet Union, the world's biggest oil producer, has fallen seriously behind on exports this year to several East European countries which are heavily dependent on its supplies.

Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and East Germany asked the Soviet Union at a meeting in Warsaw earlier this month to catch up on its contracts by delivering more oil in the fourth quarter of this year, but Polish officials said Moscow refused.

Poland said Soviet deliveries in the first six months totalled 5.39 million tonnes or 23 per cent below the contract target.

## U.N. agency sees high inflation, continued recession in L. America

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — The economies of the Latin American nations in 1990 seem bound to another year of deep recession and high inflation, a United Nations agency has warned.

The Santiago-based Economic Commission for Latin America, ECLA, said the regional gross product is expected to fall by around one per cent this year.

ECLA's executive secretary, Gert Rosenthal, held a news conference to present the agency's grim preliminary report on the regional economy performance in 1990.

"It can be said that this is going to be yet another recession year, as was the previous decade, in spite of spectacular adjustment programmes implemented by some nations in the region," the Guatemalan economist said.

He cited Argentina, Brazil and Peru as the nations pursuing the most far-reaching economic adjustment programmes.

Rosenthal said a new "element of uncertainty has added" to the general picture of the Latin American economy as a result of the Gulf crisis, which has pushed international oil prices up.

He said inflationary pressures seem somewhat reduced, but inflation remains high throughout the continent.

Still, galloping inflation continued to plague the economies in a number of countries, including Peru, Nicaragua, Argentina and Brazil. In Argentina, prices are rising at 20,000 per cent annually.

Rosenthal said that "important recovery efforts" in most countries are being hampered by the continued depression of prices for

their exports products.

Inflationary pressures also reemerged in countries like Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Guatemala and Mexico, which had succeeded in curbing them in recent years, according to the report.

On the bright side, ECLA mentioned the region's foreign trade, which was expected to post a global surplus of up to \$25 billion this year. This, however, is now in doubt as a result of higher oil prices.

The Central American nations are expected to be the most affected, ECLA said.

The report said the burden of the region's \$430 billion foreign debt "is expected to worsen slightly this year," consuming around one third of the region's hard currency earnings.

## U.S. firms to boost spending on plants, equipment by 5.1%

WASHINGTON (AP) — American businesses plan to boost spending on plants and equipment 5.1 per cent this year, the weakest increase in three years, the government said in a report reflecting economic sluggishness even before the Gulf crisis.

The Commerce Department said a survey conducted in July and August found businesses planning to spend \$526.9 billion for expansion and modernisation this year, the fourth consecutive year of increased business investment.

Although the survey was still underway at the time of the Aug. 2 Iraq takeover of Kuwait, some analysts said the spending plans were little affected by the crisis.

"It is unlikely that the Kuwait situation would have much impact, given that most of this spending is already set in motion," economists at Mitsubishi Bank in New York wrote in their current newsletter.

If realised, the investment spending would top the record \$501.6 billion in capital expenditures set last year.

But the 5.1 per cent rate of increase was the slowest since a 3.1 per cent gain in 1987 and less than half of the 10.4 per cent advance last year. Capital spending rose 9.5 per cent in 1988.

The new estimate also is down from the 5.5 per cent spending increase that businesses said they planned in the previous survey completed in May.

All of the figures have been adjusted for inflation. Many analysts have been looking for continued business investment to help stimulate an economy which has been slowing for more than a year as the Federal Reserve kept a tight rein on credit to curb inflation.

Some economists said even before the oil-price shock associated with the Gulf crisis that the economy is headed for a slight recession later this year. If it is not already in one.

Thus any growth in business spending would boost the economy, now in its eighth year of expansion, and pick up some of the slack from waning consumer spending and sluggish interest-sensitive construction and manufacturing sectors.

In addition, spending for business investment to replace aging plants and equipment and expand facilities helps to boost U.S. productivity, an increasingly important factor in view of the stiff competition the nation faces from overseas.

The Labour Department reported recently that productivity of American workers rose at an annual rate of 1.5 per cent in the second quarter of this year. But that was a rebound from a 1.9 per cent drop in the first quarter and only the first increase in 18 months.

## Peru hopes Gulf crisis will spur oil, gas investment in Camisea area

LIMA (R) — Peru hopes to cash in on higher oil prices caused by the Gulf crisis to attract private investment to the country's vast untapped oil wealth, the head of state oil company Petroperu has said.

President Alberto Fujimori's six-week-old government also planned to spur private investment for developing the Camisea natural gas fields, considered among the world's biggest, said Petroperu Chairman Jaime Quijandria Salmon.

While the Gulf crisis has stirred fears of worldwide recession, it could breathe new life into Peru's troubled oil industry by drawing badly-needed investment, he said.

Peru now hopes to bring its oil production back to where it was in the early 1980s, when the country was a crude oil exporter, said Quijandria.

"The search for new oilfields in Peru caused by the Gulf crisis will help bring us back in five years where we stood in the early

1980s," Quijandria told Reuters. He said he was already meeting three or four foreign oilmen a day who were interested in drilling in Peru.

Due largely to little new exploration and ageing equipment, Peru's crude oil output has slumped from about 200,000 barrels a day in 1985 to around 130,000 today.

One of the new government's main goals would be to generate investor interest in the Camisea gas fields, located in the remote Amazon lowlands of southeastern Peru, said Quijandria.

"Camisea should become undoubtedly one of the short-term economic levers to generate funds quickly and contribute to putting Peru back on the road to recovery," he said.

He said the overall investment at Camisea would require \$1.4 billion and generate 15,000 jobs. The Camisea lot, which Petroperu says holds gas reserves equivalent to 2.7 billion barrels, was discovered by Royal Dutch Shell in 1986 on an exploration contract for Petroperu.

After investing about \$200 million, the Anglo-Dutch company withdrew from the project two years ago when former president Alan Garcia's government cut its contract for allegedly failing to fulfil its terms.

Quijandria said Fujimori's government, seeking foreign investment on all fronts, was looking again to Shell.

"We are definitely thinking again about Shell for the Camisea project," said Quijandria, a 47-year-old economist.

Most of Peru's natural gas reserves lie in the Amazon lowlands near the Brazilian border. A smaller reserve lies off the coast of the northwestern department of Piura.

## World Bank describes '80s as 'miracle decade' for Asia

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — The World Bank leading to developing countries in Asia dropped last year and their economic growth slackened, but the 1980s were still Asia's "miracle decade," a senior bank official said.

World Bank leading to developing Asian countries totalled \$6.39 billion in fiscal 1990, a drop of \$1.4 billion from the previous year, the Washington-based agency reported in its annual report.

"It is still valid to call it the miracle decade for Asia, especially when compared to Latin America and Africa which hardly grew at all," Attila Karaosmanoglu, the World Bank's vice president for Asia, said.

Briefing journalists on the re-

port in San Francisco, he said the drop in lending last year was due to lower development activity in the two largest Asian countries, China and India.

Karaosmanoglu said during the 1980's as a whole, Asia's economy boomed.

"Asia managed to grow about 7.5 per cent per annum, and Asian exports grew well over 11 per cent per year," he said. "The proportion of people living in poverty has declined."

According to the World Bank, some 800 million Asians still live in poverty, about 70 per cent of the world's total impoverished people.

Karaosmanoglu said Asia's economic success in the 1980's was

achieved despite unstable commodity prices, fluctuations in interest rates and numerous currency realignments.

"Through it all, Asia maintained what must be termed extraordinary prudence in balancing their economic management — creating more jobs and ... and forging a productive cooperative balance between government and private sectors," he said.

Karaosmanoglu said Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia recorded especially strong economic growth as the decade ended.

The World Bank report noted that Indonesia doubled its non-oil exports and substantially increased domestic and foreign investment.

"Building on these successes, Indonesia continued, during 1989, the reform process in the banking sector and the capital market and in investment policy, shipping and public enterprises," it said.

Karaosmanoglu said the gross domestic products (GDP) of South Korea, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia were expected to grow more than six per cent in 1990.

"But for the Philippines the outlook is less sanguine, due to a number of long-standing problems caused by the burden of external debt, new pressures from higher oil prices and loss of significant funds from labour in Iraq and Kuwait," he said.

## Hungary emphasises privatisation

BUDAPEST (R) — More than half of Hungary's mainly state-owned economy will be in private hands in three to four years, Prime Minister Jozsef Antall has said.

Up to 90 per cent of the country's production still comes from state-owned enterprises, the legacy of more than four decades of communist rule.

"It is my government's clear cut objective to change within three to four years the industry's ownership ratio, so that private ownership could have an dominant share," Antall told an investment promotion conference.

He said the key words of his centre-right coalition government's economic policy were liberalisation, privatisation and getting rid of bureaucracy.

The government, elected this spring in the first free elections for 45 years, has the task of setting up a market economy and dismantling the former centrally planned system.

A prepared text distributed to journalists said 60 per cent of the economy would be in private hands within five years.

"According to estimates, we can expect the annual inflow of \$1 to \$2 billion worth of foreign direct capital in the years to come," Antall said.

Hungary now grapples with a \$20 billion debt, making it the East Bloc's largest per capita debtor. Its industry, undergoing structural changes is marked by inefficiency and underdeveloped infrastructure, resulting in a shrinking output.

Finance Minister Ferenc Rabar said last week that Hungary's mid-year results were favourable despite existing difficulties. It had a \$500 million convertible trade balance surplus and succeeded in shifting the bulk of its trade to the West from the East.

The number of registered joint ventures with foreign companies soared to 1,800 between Jan. 1, 1989 and June 30 this year and the value of foreign capital that flowed to Hungary was about \$800 million, Antall said.

## Romania's transition to market economy sparks strike wave

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania's economy since communist rule was overthrown. But labour unrest remained widespread after weeks of alternating short-lived strikes and renewed strike threats.

An aviation plant in the north-east Romanian city of Bacau was on strike, garbage collectors in the transylvanian town Cluj stopped work, and transport workers in Craiova, in southwest Romania, refused to drive their buses because of a spare parts shortage and shoddy vehicles.

Port workers in the Black Sea port Constanta threatened to bring Romanian commercial shipping to a standstill with a strike this week.

A major factor in these and other stoppages is a general sense of abandonment and paralysis in the absence of transitional economic policies before laws to under-

pin privatisation and a market economy take effect.

Prime Minister Petre Roman told engineers at factories in the industrial city of Brasov last week that the plants now had a free hand to take their own business decisions, such as buying components at market prices, without asking the government for help.

But enterprises are reluctant to take initiatives until laws still under parliamentary debate get a final seal of approval.

A wait-and-see attitude prevails. Most factories are producing only for their hard-currency export programmes and neglecting the domestic market, so that many other plants are starved of essential materials and components.

The latest official figures show that industrial output has been halved since August last year as a result of the confusion.

## Analysts play down pessimism about U.S. banking system

NEW YORK (R) — The U.S. banking system is under assault from all sides, with the government predicting boom and Wall Street pushing down bank stocks, but experts in the industry say the widespread pessimism may be overblown.

All agree that the banks are facing problems. Earnings will be weak in the third quarter; credit problems will continue their steady rise; special charges will abound and a recession is looming.

U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan alluded to recent warnings about the banking system last week, saying he sees growing problems in the already stressed industry.

But the U.S. central bank chief said the problems in the banking industry were not as severe as those afflicting the thrift business. Greenspan said banks are healthier and better regulated, and that the odds of a replay in the banking industry of the U.S. savings and loan scandal — in which hundreds of institutions collapsed

because of bad loans — are "very significantly lower."

Analysts say the majority of the nation's big banks will huddle along, doing neither particularly well nor failing.

One change will be that the pace of banking industry mergers may pick up.

Fanning alarm about industry, the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO), an auditing arm of the U.S. Congress, has said that 35 big, unidentified U.S. banks with a total of \$45 billion in assets will fail in the next year.

The GAO said the expected failures will strain the U.S. Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.'s (FDIC) ability to cope with the problem without raising new taxes. The FDIC insures U.S. banks.

The GAO defined "big" as banks with assets of \$100 million or more. A bank of that size would not even rank among the top 300 in the nation.

"Most of these banks that will fail, no one has ever heard of," said Donaldson Lufkin Jenrette

industry Brent Enresel. "You've got to remember that the GAO is trying to alert Congress to a possible challenge."

"Perhaps their alarmism is a little bit of showmanship," he said, noting that the U.S. Congress will soon address revamping the bank insurance system.

The agency's chief concern is that the nation's system of deposit insurance could not withstand a repeat of the \$500 billion savings and loan bailout.

Greenspan said that there "very clearly is a major difference" between banks and savings and loans institutions. Banks are not allowed to take the risks that savings and loans took, and capital cushions are generally higher.

Still, the FDIC insurance fund that protects banking deposits, now worth \$13 billion, would fail sharply under the new projections.

The 13,200 commercial banks and mutual savings banks in the FDIC system may have to pay higher insurance premiums to replenish the fund.

## Bertelsmann unit, Maxwell to buy Berliner Verlag in East Germany

HAMBURG, West Germany (R) — East Germany's PDS political party, successor to the former ruling communists, has said it was giving up outright ownership of Berliner Verlag A.G.,

the largest publishing firm in East Germany, to Gruner and Jahr A.G. of West Germany and British publisher Robert Maxwell.

In a statement, Gruner and Jahr, a unit of media group Ber-

telmann A.G. and Europe's biggest magazine publishing house, said negotiations were concluded successfully.

No further details of the deal, reached just three weeks before German unification on Oct. 3, were available.

Among Gruner and Jahr's publications in West Germany are Stern magazine, with a weekly circulation of 1.3 million. Its Western European titles include Estar Viva magazine in Spain, Best and Prima in Britain and Femme Actuelle in France. In the United States it publishes Parent magazine.

Earlier this year, Gruner and Jahr and Maxwell signed a preliminary contract to form a 50-50 partnership to acquire Berliner Verlag. This specified that Gruner and Jahr would be the manag-

ing partner, while Maxwell would chair the partnership.

In August, the West German Federal Cartel Office said it had no objections to the takeover of Berliner Verlag, as this would not give the new owners a dominant market position in Berlin.

Among Berliner Verlag's publications are the dailies Berliner Zeitung and Berliner Zeitung am Abend.

The deal enhances Bertelsmann's position in East Germany, where it already publishes regional tabloids in Dresden, Chemnitz and the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern region.

It said last week it expected to invest several hundred million marks in what is now East Germany over the next three years. It is also in talks on cooperation with Saechsische Zeitung.

### ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

#### Tunisia, Dutch oil firm sign accord

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia signed an onshore oil and gas exploration agreement with the Dutch firm Sovereign Oil and Gas, the economy ministry has said. Under the agreement, covering 2,788 square kilometres near the east coast at Salakta, Sovereign would finance exploration to be jointly undertaken with state firm Entreprise Tunisienne d'Activites Petrolières. Tunisia produced 4.7 million tonnes of oil last year.

#### U.S. black-owned firms show growth

WASHINGTON (R) — The number of businesses owned by African-Americans rose modestly from 1982 to 1987, but revenues for the same period more than doubled, according to a new Census Bureau survey. In 1987, there were 424,000 black-owned businesses in the United States, up 38 per cent from 308,000 in 1982, while receipts swelled to \$19.8 billion from \$9.6 billion during the same period. The total number of U.S. firms grew 14 per cent to 13.7 million. Revenues leaped to \$1.99 trillion from \$967.5 billion. Large corporations are not included in the survey. On average, revenues per black-owned firm were \$47,000 compared with \$146,000 for all U.S. firms, the study showed. Black-owned companies accounted for 3.1 per cent of all firms in the U.S. in 1987, with some 94 per cent sole proprietorships. Automotive dealerships and service stations led industry groups as the largest portion of firms that blacks owned in 1987. They accounted for \$2.2 billion of sales. Business and health services trailed with revenues of \$1.6 billion and \$1.4 billion respectively.

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# T O D A Y

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Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

**Cinema CONCORD** Tel: 677420

**Dured Lahham Madeline Tabar in 1-KAFROUN**

3:30, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45 P.M.

**2-SENIOR WEEK**

5:15, p.m.

**Cinema PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

**Samir Ghanem, Ahmad Bdeir in KILL MY WIFE WITH THANKS (Arabic)**

Performances: 3:45, 6:45, 9:15

**Cinema NUJUM** Tel: 675571

**Samir Ghanem, Ahmad Bdeir in KILL MY WIFE WITH THANKS (Arabic)**

Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 p.m.

Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

**Cinema PLAZA** Tel: 699238

**THE INNOCENT (Arabic) Starring Ahmad Zaki, Mahmoud Abdul Aziz**

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.



## Nigeria sends more troops; jets bomb rebel positions in Liberia

LAGOS (R) — About 1,000 Nigerian troops left for Liberia at the weekend to reinforce 4,000 West African troops trying to end nine months of bloody civil war there.

The move reaffirmed the commitment of the biggest participant in the five-nation peacekeeping force after a week of setbacks which raised doubts about the operation.

Rebels loyal to Prince Yormie Johnson captured Liberian President Samuel Doe a week ago in the capital Monrovia. He was later reported dead.

Johnson seized several members of the peacekeeping force along with an unknown number of foreign hostages and rival Charles Taylor's mainstream rebel movement has kidnapped hundreds of Nigerian civilians.

Nigeria's military government has made no official comment. But West African diplomats say the participating members of

the 16-nation Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS) — Nigeria, Ghana, Guinea, Sierra Leone and the Gambia — have decided the force should be strengthened.

The departure from Lagos Sunday of two Nigeria Airways DC10s each carrying 325 soldiers on their way to Monrovia via Freetown in Sierra Leone, seemed to bear this out.

Airport sources said another DC10 with a similar payload left Saturday, and two military C130 transport planes flew out early Sunday carrying vehicles and heavy weapons.

The DC10s also carried inflatable boats, barbed wire, communications gear, medical supplies and food.

A merchant ship, the River Majidun, was due to leave over the weekend with more food supplies and to evacuate some of the thousands of Nigerians stranded in Monrovia.

A government source told Reuters the number of Nigerian naval vessels with the peacekeeping force had risen to five.

Meanwhile West African warplanes bombed rebels in Monrovia for the second day Sunday.

Two Ghanaian fighter bombers Saturday and Sunday were "looking for and neutralising artillery emplacements" of Taylor, the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) quoted a West African Task Force spokesman as saying.

Clouds of dust and columns of smoke rose from the bombed areas, the British radio quoted witnesses as saying.

Rebels had shelled the task force headquarters, killing 2 Ghanaian sailors and three Nigerian medical workers, the BBC reported.

A rebel radio broadcast Sunday said three aircraft bombed the capital's Robertsfield International Airport and said the United States was involved. A U.S.

embassy spokesman in Monrovia denied the accusation.

The airport, 48 kilometres east of Monrovia, has not been used by international airlines since it fell behind Taylor's lines in May.

Monrovia has been cut off from the outside world since June, without running water, electricity or telephone communications. Little food has gotten through, and people are dying of starvation.

On Saturday, the force went on the offensive after its headquarters came under heavy bombardment from Taylor's rebels Friday night, the BBC said.

One shell from Taylor's group hit a Ghanaian warship docked in the port, killing two sailors. Another hit a Nigerian medical post nearby. Three Nigerian medical workers were killed.

The headquarters of the 3,000-member task force suffered considerable damage, according to the radio.

## Gorbachev calls for national referendum to privatise land

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has called for a national referendum to decide whether to turn land back over to farmers 61 years after it was collectivised.

"This is such a crucial question, it cannot be decided in any office, by any small group or even by this parliament," Gorbachev told the Supreme Soviet as it opened debate on competing economic reform plans.

Last week, Gorbachev endorsed a plan that would move the Soviet Union toward a market economy over a 500-day period. The plan would include allowing farmers and other private citizens the right to own and sell land, and to pass it to their heirs.

So far, Soviet reforms have stopped short of full privatisation of land, in part because of staunch opposition from traditional Communist Party leaders who oppose abandoning socialism.

Land was collectivised in a bloody 1929-32 campaign under then-Kremlin ruler Josef Stalin, leaving a legacy of fear and distrust among farmers.

Several reform plans have been proposed, including a radical version backed by Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin and already passed by the legislature of Russia, the largest of the 15 Soviet republics.

Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov last week proposed more moderate plans that would only partially dismantle the state planning bureaucracy that has dominated the economy since shortly after the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

Gorbachev has endorsed a watered-down version of the 500-day plan, which is also called the Shatalin Plan after its main author, Stanislav Shatalin, a top economic adviser to the Soviet president and a member of the

recently created Presidential Council.

In his 30-minute address Monday, Gorbachev stopped short of advocating any of the proposals, including the one he proposed last Friday to the national and 15 republic legislatures.

But he called privatisation of land the most difficult issue facing reform.

He also emphasised the need for political stability, a phrase he has used in the past to counter calls for the resignation of Ryzhkov and other members of the council of ministers.

Gorbachev's remarks appeared designed in part to calm fears among Communist Party members and others opposed to moving from a centrally planned to a market-driven economy.

He said that no matter which proposal is adopted, the government needs to protect the population from the negative aspects of a market economy, such as inflation, unemployment and possible sharp rises in the costs of such basics as health services and housing.

"We need to guarantee Soviet citizens a basic wage, pensions, housing and free medical care," he said.

Ryzhkov, in a television interview broadcast Saturday night, said he feared that a 500-day transition to a market economy would cause widespread suffering.

Tens of thousands of radical reformers marched to the base of the Kremlin wall Sunday night demanding the resignation of Ryzhkov, whom they blamed for the deterioration of the economy.

Separately Monday, TASS reported that Gorbachev spoke by telephone with French President Francois Mitterrand and "sharply condemned" a raid by Iraqi troops on the French ambassador's residence in Kuwait.

"The Soviet president qualified this act as a deliberate aggravation of the situation," the official Soviet News Agency said.

TASS said the two presidents spoke Sunday, the same day France expelled 29 Iraqis in response to Friday's raid. France kept open its embassy in Kuwait following Iraq's invasion and annexation.

Sunday's protest was held by 30,000 people.

The rally, which crowned a seven kilometre march in drizzling rain from the city's Gorky Park, took place amid a desperate shortage of basic foodstuffs including bread and declining production in several key industrial sectors.

Mikhail Poltoranin, a radical member of the Russian parliament, was applauded by protesters at the Kremlin walls when he declared: "We have had enough waiting. Nikolai Ivanovich (Ryzhkov) must for once become a man and say I am quitting."

Gorbachev has sought political consensus on economic reform, saying the country cannot face the transition without it. But in addition to in-fighting within the Kremlin, a struggle with independence-minded republics threatens his plans.

Estonia, for example, has not participated in drafting any of the switch-to-the-market proposals for fear they will drag the Baltic republic into new commitments to Moscow, and several other republics are wary of becoming attached to the project.

The sprawling Russian Federation has said it will go ahead with the 500-day plan on Oct. 1, and Gorbachev's advisers have said they would like the Soviet parliament and the 14 other republic legislatures to pass it by that date.

But some of the republican parliaments will not be elected by them, notably Azerbaijan and Georgia. When they do go to the polls on Sept. 30 and Oct. 28 they are expected to elect more independence-minded parliaments.

## Column 8

### Ted Danson finally wins Emmy

PASADENA, California (R) — Ted Danson finally won an Emmy Award after being nominated eight times for his role as barman Sam Malone in the hit U.S. television series Cheers and Candice Bergen won her second Emmy in a row for her title part in Murphy Brown. The lawyers' office series L.A. Law was named Best Dramatic Series for the second year in succession. Murphy Brown, the story of crazy antics in a television station, was named Best Comedy Series. The biggest surprise of the night at the televised awards show was the failure of Twin Peaks, the brooding soap opera series set in a logging town, to win more than two Emmys — for technical achievements — after being nominated for 14 awards. And the Emmy Awards were a bittersweet event for British comedienne Tracey Ullman. Her series, The Tracey Ullman Show, collected the most awards of any nominated — six — even though it is off the air. The awards included two for The Best of the Tracey Ullman Show. "Oh Blimey, this brings it all back," Ullman shouted as she collected her personal award, for outstanding individual performance in a variety or music programme. The series also won the award for outstanding writing in a variety programme.

### 6 hold Florida lottery winning tickets

MIAMI (R) — Six people split a \$105 million Florida lottery prize, ending a frenzy that sent Americans rushing to buy a chance to become overnight millionaires in the second largest lottery jackpot in U.S. history. Rebecca Paul, head of the state's Lottery Commission announced the preliminary results, saying each winner would receive \$17.5 million. The jackpot totalled at least \$105 million and a computer was still working to reach a final tally. The names of the six winners were not immediately known. The names of millions of losers will never be known. More than 102 million of the one-dollar tickets were sold and many hopeful ticket-holders grieved as they watched their dreams crumble. The odds against them were some 14 million to one. "This is just awful," said Peggy Brown, secretary in a Miami office whose 12-member staff formed a pool to buy some 100 lotto tickets. "We just knew we were going to win and we all had plans for the money."

### Thief steals paintings from judges dining hall

LONDON (R) — A thief stole two paintings by Gainsborough and one by Sir Joshua Reynolds worth £6 million (\$11.4 million) from a dining hall for judges and barristers, police said. They said the man attacked a warden and stole his keys to enter the great hall of Lincoln's Inn where the Gainsborough paintings of British Prime Minister William Pitt and Judge Sir John Skinner, and the Reynolds painting of a former inn treasurer, Francis Hargrave, were hung. The treasurer of the inn estimated the paintings to be worth about £2 million (\$3.8 million) each.

### Giant python scares Texas neighbourhood

RICHLAND HILLS, Texas (AP) — When police got the call about a "big" snake frightening residents of this Texas neighbourhood, they didn't really believe it — until they saw the giant python. But that indeed was the stranger who showed up at dinner time at the home of Jana Klarich. She said her 4-year-old daughter spotted the snake at their front door, while she was cooking sausage. "Mama, what's that?" the girl said. "I said, 'I don't know,'" Ms. Klarich recounted. "Then I got closer, and I knew." Ms. Klarich called police and told them a big snake was out squirming around on her front porch. "I envisioned a grass snake or a chicken snake or something like that," said Police Sgt. Mike Davis. "When I got up there, there's this 10-foot python laying on her porch. It ruined my day." But officer Kathi Perkins decided the snake was friendly and squeezed it into a plastic garbage can. The reptile has been placed in custody of the Humane Society and police are trying to find its owner.

## Cambodian council fails to reach any agreement on 1st day of talks

BANGKOK (AP) — Cambodia's warring factions failed to reach any agreement Monday after the first session of a new council formed to try to end 11 years of civil war.

The Supreme National Council, created in talks last week in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta, met for several hours at the Cambodian embassy. The embassy had been abandoned since 1975 but 100 Thai workers refurbished it last weekend.

"There were some problems and we will have to resume discussions tomorrow," said Premier Hun Sen, leader of the Vietnamese-installed government in Cambodia. He would not elaborate.

Hun Sen had said he wanted the session to settle a dispute over the council chairmanship, choose a delegation to this week's U.N. General Assembly, and arrange a "voluntary ceasefire" and an end to outside military aid.

He met in the council session with leaders of the three allied guerrilla groups: Khieu Samphan of the Khmer Rouge, Son Sann of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and Prince Norodom Ranariddh, who commands forces loyal to his father, Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Their sparsely furnished embassy meeting room was decorated with fresh flowers and photographs of Cambodia, including one of Angkor Wat, ancient capital of its greatest civilisation.

Hun Sen said the chairmanship issue should not be allowed to block agreement on other issues.

The council now includes six representatives of Hun Sen's government and two representatives from each of the three guerrilla groups.

The guerrillas said Sihanouk, a former head of state and an undisputed key figure in any settlement, should be the council's 13th member and its chairman. But Hun Sen has said Sihanouk can join the council only if he replaces another member.

Sihanouk failed to attend the talks in Indonesia, pleading ill health, but later said he was ready to be the council's chairman.

Ranariddh said Monday he was willing to leave himself out of the delegation to the United Nations if his father was given the chairmanship of the Supreme National Council.

The Cambodians are trying to follow a earlier breakthrough, in which a peace plan was adopted on Aug. 28 by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, which back different sides in the conflict.

Britain, China, France and the United States back the guerrillas. The Soviet Union backs the government in Phnom Penh.

Their plan provides for extensive U.N. involvement during a transition period, including a peacekeeping force, elections under U.N. supervision, human rights protection and international

al guarantees that Cambodia will be non-aligned, neutral and democratic.

They hope for a formal agreement when the international conference on Cambodia reconvenes in Paris, perhaps in November.

However, it appears the Cambodians still have deep differences over power-sharing in the period before elections, the issue that doomed the first Paris conference in August 1989.

Phnom Penh Radio quoted a minister in charge of foreign affairs, Hor Man Hong, as saying last Friday that his government had not agreed to give up power. His interpretation of the Security Council plan was that both the Phnom Penh and resistance governments would remain intact during the transition while the United Nations controlled five ministries.

"I would like to specify that the U.N. authority is not coming to control Cambodia. It only oversees some aspects relating to elections to set up a new government," he said.

On Saturday, the radio jointly operated by Sihanouk and Son Sann's forces disagreed with that interpretation.

It said the Supreme National Council was to be the sole source of authority during the transition and would cede all powers to the United Nations to administer Cambodia.

"The state of Cambodia of (president) Heng Samrin and Hun Sen does not have any power during this period," it said.

## Walesa to run for president

WARSAW (AP) — Solidarity chairman Lech Walesa announced Monday he will run for president of Poland.

"Today I made up my mind. I am putting forward for society's approval my readiness to be a candidate for the post of president of the Polish Republic in popular elections," Walesa said in a statement issued from Solidarity headquarters in Gdansk.

"For me, it is a fulfillment of the pledge I made in August 1980," the Solidarity chairman said, recalling the documents that founded the East Bloc's first independent trade union a decade ago.

Post-Communist Poland's first fully democratic presidential and parliament elections are expected as early as this fall and no later than spring.

Walesa has suggested for nearly a year that he might run for president to speed political and economic reforms. In June he said, "I do not want to be president. I will have to be president."

Walesa has split with Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the former close adviser he picked to be the East Bloc's first non-Communist government leader. Walesa charges that too many supporters of the old regime remain in key government and state industry posts, and that the Mazowiecki government is losing touch.

Two camps have developed from the political feud, representing the beginning of a multi-party system after four decades of Communist control. One, the Centre Alliance, supports Walesa for president and is identified with workers and the Solidarity union in Gdansk. The other, known by the acronym ROAD, backs Mazowiecki and is associated with intellectuals and the government in Warsaw.

The prime minister, who points to the initial successes of his shock economic reform plan and a multitude of other changes across Polish society, has not announced whether he will run. ROAD organisers have called on him to make his decision by the end of this month.

Mazowiecki's office said there would be no immediate response to Walesa's announcement.

The current president, former Communist Party leader Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, has said he will resign early from his six-year term. He was elected in July 1989 largely to smooth relations with the Soviet Union after the historic "round-table" accords between Solidarity and the then-Communist authorities paved the way for the democratic reform in Poland and across Eastern Europe.

## Canadian rescuers find downed plane's life raft

ST. JOHN'S, Newfoundland (AP) — Searchers Sunday evening discovered what appeared to be a half-submerged life raft in the North Atlantic near where a Peruvian jetliner with 16 aboard is believed to have ditched last week.

Officials believe none aboard the Boeing 727 jet survived.

A Canadian Forces Buffalo airplane spotted what was believed to be the plane's 24-man life raft, but no one appeared to be aboard, said Capt. Ross Brown of the Halifax Search and Rescue Coordination Centre.

The Destroyer Nipigon was steaming to the area late Sunday and was expected to arrive soon, he said.

The plane, with Air Malta employees and their families aboard, was en route from the Mediterranean island of Malta to Miami. Its last contact came before a routine refuelling stop in Gander, New

foundland, when the pilot reported a low-fuel emergency, and said he was preparing to ditch in the ocean.

Searchers "located an international orange life raft, partially submerged," said Bob Norburn, a private radio operator monitoring transmissions between aircraft and the Canadian warship Nipigon, which was co-ordinating the sea search.

"There were no signs of life. It's dragging a lanyard. No transmissions," he said.

The sighting came several hours after officials confirmed a Soviet trawler's sighting of a section of the airliner's fuselage Friday.

"The object was described as being cigar-shaped, grey in colour with red and white stripes," said Brown. "From the captain's description, officials have confirmed that the object is part of the aircraft fuselage."

## Bloody gloves found in Florida killer's home

GAINESVILLE, Florida (AP) — State police found blood-stained gloves and a .38-caliber handgun in the home of a suspect in the slaying deaths of five college students, a newspaper reported Sunday.

But Edward Lewis Humphrey's grandmother said the blood and gloves found in a search of her home in Indianola on Sept. 6 were hers, the Gainesville Sun reported. She also said the pistol has been in the house for years.

Police said Humphrey, 18, is one of eight suspects in the murders of five students in off-campus apartments Aug. 26 to Aug. 28. Three of the students were murdered, including one who was decapitated.

Humphrey has not been charged in the slayings. He is being held in lieu of \$1 million

bond in the Brevard County Jail in Sharps on charges he assaulted his 79-year-old grandmother on Aug. 30, shortly after he had returned from Gainesville, where he was a University of Florida Freshman.

He also faces warrants in an Aug. 25 assault on two male University of Florida students and an October 1988 armed burglary and attempted rape.

Humphrey's grandmother, Elina Hlavay, said the gloves found during the police search were stained with her blood when she fell and cut her head.

When Humphrey was arrested, his grandmother told police he had choked her and punched her in the face. She later said her injuries were accidental and has asked that the charges be dropped.

## S. African police fail to disarm Zulu warriors

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Police pledging an impartial crackdown on South Africa's black township war faced club-wielding Zulus at weekend peace rallies but made no attempt to disarm them, saying the task was impossible.

Thousands of chanting Zulus armed with spears, sticks, knives and axes sent nervous township residents scattering in terror at peace rallies in Soweto and Thokoza townships Sunday.

Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) accuses rightist police of siding with Inkatha to foment the month-old township violence and wreck President F.W. de Klerk's plan to scrap apartheid. Police deny the charge.

Police said they would request permission from de Klerk's government for strict measures code-named Iron Fist to stamp out the violence that has cost 760 lives.

The Zulus swarmed onto trains, dancing, staging mock fights and singing war slogans. They carried axes and knives banned under an agreement between rally organisers and police.

"How could you prevent that?" Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok said during a brief visit to Thokoza.

"It is ridiculous to disarm 30,000 to 50,000 people," said police spokesman Colonel Tienie Halvors. Told by a reporter that local residents were frightened of the weapons, he said.

"Why must they be concerned if there are no incidents? We cannot do everything."

The migrant workers beard appeals from their Zulu king and the chief of Mandela's Xhosa tribe for an end to their feud with ANC-supporting township residents.

The men and women most affected by the summer's shuttle delays — the astronauts — are disappointed with the recurring fuel leaks. But they're confident NASA is handling the situation well.

Another try at a shuttle launch is set for this week.

"The folks in the office understand that nothing is 100 per cent and that there's a risk involved. Since the Challenger accident, I think we've made great strides in reducing the risk," said Dan Brandenstein, 47, chief of the astronaut office.

The mood around astronaut headquarters at Johnson Space

Centre in Houston comes nowhere close to matching the despair that followed the Challenger explosion on Jan. 28, 1986, which killed all seven on board.

Twelve astronauts left that year, an unprecedented number.

Still, it's the toughest time for the 82-member corps since flights resumed two years ago this month. Two of NASA's three shuttles are grounded by hydrogen leaks, and the flight schedule is in disarray. A shuttle has not flown since April.

"It's one thing if you have one mission that you had to delay or cancel because of a leak. But we've got several problems stacked up on top of each other," said Bruce Melnick, 40. He is scheduled to fly next month on discovery, the only shuttle in which fuel leaks had not been found.

The National Aeronautics and

Space Administration (NASA) hopes to prevent further schedule havoc by launching Columbia Tuesday.

The countdown got under way Saturday and was proceeding normally Sunday.

It will be the fourth launch attempt for the astronomy mission, considered by many astronauts to be "snakebitten" and part of NASA's bout of bad luck.

At the same time, NASA has endured a searing stream of criticism from congress and the rest of America for sending up a flawed Hubble space telescope in April in the last shuttle flight.

For the astronauts, the verbal assaults hurt.

"Nobody likes to work for an agency that you give your heart for and then wake up with all this negative publicity," said Dick Richards, 44, commander of Discovery's upcoming mission.

"There are some things that are screw-ups and there are some things that you might call an act of God," said Astronaut Story Musgrave, 55. "It's the space business and it's the technology."

Columbia's seven-man crew, in particular, has been teased about flight delays. Astronaut superstition holds that having an astronaut on board is an open invitation to scrubbed launches. This crew has four astronauts.

But they said they want everything right when launch begins.

"When it comes down to T-minus-zero and the engines are running and the solid rockets are burning and you're inside that thing, you want to make sure everything's in perfect condition," said Bruce McCandless, 53, who is retiring after 24 years as an astronaut.

Police blocked the marchers and told them to occupy a vacant lot in front of the embassy. But the demonstrators tried to break the police line and started to lob homemade bombs, a police official said.

The police threw tear gas and chased the demonstrators to the nearby Rizal Park.

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## Gasoline tanker explodes in Michigan river; 1 missing

BAY CITY, Michigan (AP) — A tanker carrying about 1 million gallons of gasoline continued to burn Sunday evening on the Saginaw River, hours after an explosion. At least 18 people aboard were reported injured.

The fire was too hot for firefighters to douse, and officials waited for it to burn itself out, said Coast Guard Lt. Tom Koonitz. Fuel spilled into the river.

One person from the ship was

missing, said Coast Guard Petty Officer Gerald Backus. Gov. James Blanchard visited the site and declared the blaze an emergency, freeing state aid and assistance.

The fire was reported Sunday morning while the tanker was unloading at the Total refinery dock facility, and was still burning late Sunday evening.

Authorities warned spectators to clear the area in case of multiple explosions.

"A few people blew right off the boat and slammed ashore," said Bay City police officer Kenneth Adcock. "The sky is covered with black smoke. If it blows again, it's going to be a big one."

Witnesses said the black smoke blocked out the sun throughout the afternoon.

The tanker, owned by Cleveland Tankers Inc. of Cleveland, was carrying about 20,000 barrels of gasoline or about 1 million gallons, said Koonitz.

## Astronauts disappointed but defend delayed launches

SPACE CENTRE, Houston (AP) — They've spent months defending NASA's honour, reassuring worried family members and waiting for space shuttles to fly again.

The men and women most affected by the summer's shuttle delays — the astronauts — are disappointed with the recurring fuel leaks. But they're confident NASA is handling the situation well.

Another try at a shuttle launch is set for this week.

"The folks in the office understand that nothing is 100 per cent and that there's a risk involved. Since the Challenger accident, I think we've made great strides in reducing the risk," said Dan Brandenstein, 47, chief of the astronaut office.

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